MADRAS INFORMATION

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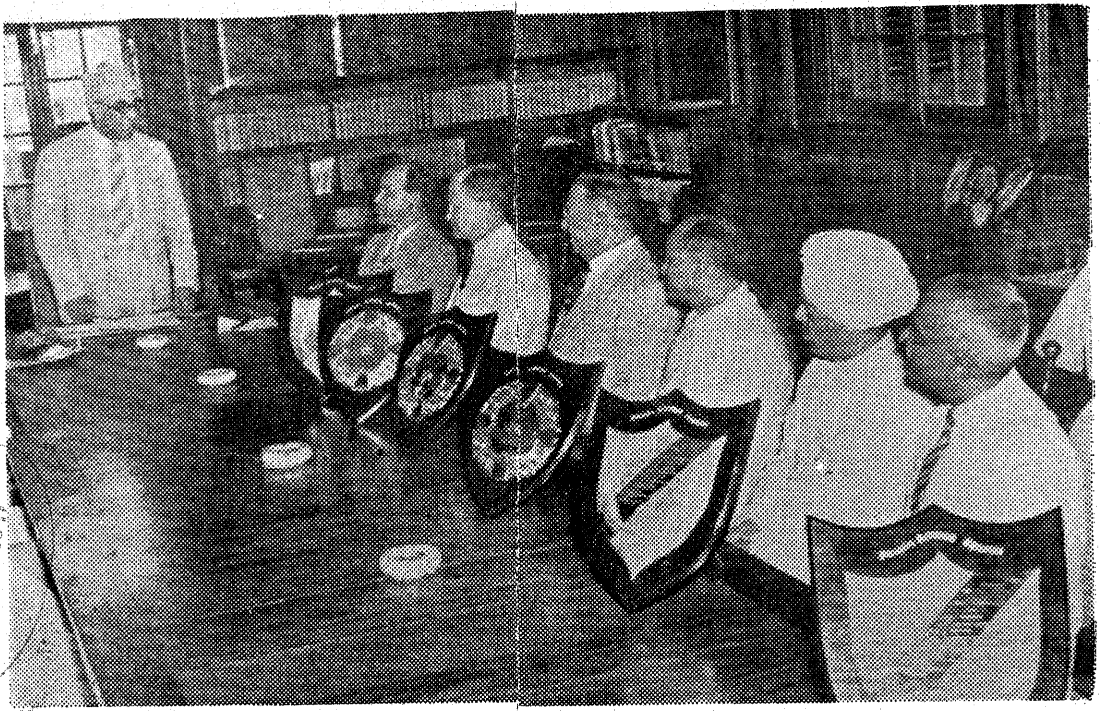
SMALL SAVINGS SCHEME—FINANCE MEMBER PRESENTS SHIELDS TO WINNING AREAS



"Contributions to National Savings is a National Service," declared the Hon'ble Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Finance Member in the Government of India, after presenting gold and silver shields today to the winning Provinces and States and other areas in the 1945-46 Small Savings Scheme Competition. The Scheme resulted in the collection of about Rs. 70 crores between October 1943 and February 1947.

Photo shows : (Left to right) *The Hon'ble Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Standing) ; Mr. C. N. T. Henry, National Savings Commissioner ; Major P. C. Hailey (Rajkot Civil Station) ; Mr. R. K. Metha (Bombay Province) ; Mr. S. C. Desai (Cambay State) ; Kunwar Shiv Singh (Baghat State) ; Mr. M. S. Joshi (Idar State).*

The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

However, the views expressed and the articles published in this journal do not necessarily represent the official opinion.

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Madras Information

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Editorial Notes

Food Situation in Guntur District

The food situation in some districts of the Province is providing cause for a certain amount of anxiety and particularly so in the Guntur district. The Hon'ble the Food Minister, in the course of a statement he made in the last session of the Assembly, referred to two very important considerations in this connexion. The first was that the shortage of rice was due not to shortage of stocks but to unsatisfactory procurement and the second was that the Government were determined to see that better results were obtained in this regard by a change in the existing procurement agency. There has been a considerable amount of withholding of stocks by a section of the producers in anticipation of future higher prices and black-marketing has been going on unchecked in conditions of artificially created short supply. These two grave impediments to improvement in the food situation must be eliminated, and in this the general public should assist the Government. The evil of black-markets has struck deep roots and only close and large-scale public co-operation with the official agency in uprooting it will have any effect.

The following remedial measures have been taken by the Government to improve the situation in the district in the interests of better procurement—

(i) The procurement licences for the producers-*cum*-consumers co-operative societies have been cancelled from April 1, and given back to the millers so far as the Kharif year is concerned;

(ii) The millets and maize stocks in the district are being replenished, though these grains particularly if they are of the imported variety are not consumed freely by the people who prefer rice.

As had been made perfectly clear in the official statement made by the Hon'ble the Food Minister in the Assembly, in a matter which concerns the people's food, no risks could possibly be taken. The first and most important thing is to see in what way procurement is speeded up and stocks replenished, subject of course to the imperative consideration that the price to the consumer is not increased at the same time and that no inducement is provided to the producer to keep back surplus stocks in the hope of future price increases.

MAIN FEATURES

(1) Textile Policy
(2) Press Notes
(3) Prohibition
(4) Government Departments at Work
(5) Indonesian Delegation
(6) Interim Relief to Milkmen
(7) Official Trustee
(8) Rationing
(9) Nutrition

Application for Licences

The attention of the general public should be drawn to the Press Communiqué issued by the Government re-emphasising the procedure that should be followed in applying for licences and permits under the various Control Orders issued from time to time in connexion with cloth and yarn control. The point has been reiterated that it is very essential for those applying for the permits to approach the concerned local authorities in the first instance. Who the competent local authority is for granting licences under each of the Control Orders has been indicated in the Press Communiqué. It is only when any order issued by these local authorities is considered manifestly unfair by the party that he can apply for revision or modification of the order to the Government. In any case, no useful purpose will be served by prospective applicants for permits or licences to sell or distribute controlled commodities coming up to Madras to interview Hon'ble Ministers or other officers at headquarters in regard to these matters, which are dealt with by local officers who have been duly authorized to do so. Much expense and trouble will be saved to them if they make a note of and observe the directions incorporated in the various Government Orders.

BLACK-MARKETING IS A TERRIBLE EVIL

HELP GOVERNMENT TO ROOT IT OUT and THUS HELP YOURSELVES

Procurement Restored to Millers in Circars

Food Minister's Statement in Assembly

Famine in the usual sense of the term is caused by failure of rain. The rainfall in Guntur district during 1946–47 was above normal as will be seen from the figures given below. The unprecedentedly heavy rain in November damaged the paddy crop and reduced the yield. The millet crop also was partially affected by the heavy rains in November and by the comparative absence of rain in subsequent months. But there has been no widespread failure of crops to apprehend a famine. What has really happened is that the rural rationing has partially broken down and grain is not readily available to the poorer classes at reasonable prices. The trouble is largely the result of the inability of the new procurement machinery to cope with the work.

According to the final forecast of production and consumption in Guntur district for the year 1946–47, the estimated production was 203,000 tons of rice and the estimated consumption of both the producers and non-producers within the district was 161,000 tons leaving an estimated surplus of 42,000 tons for export to the deficit districts of the Province. As the yield was affected by the heavy rains, the production figure was calculated on the basis of 85 per cent of the normal and the target figure for procurement to feed the non-producers in the district and for export to deficit districts was fixed at 81,000 tons of which 42,000 tons was estimated to be the exportable surplus as against the target figure of 88,000 tons last year and an exportable surplus of 49,000 tons. In actual fact, both the target figure of procurement and target figure of export were exceeded last year, though the season was admittedly bad. The total procurement amounted to 93,463 tons and 49,820 tons were exported to deficit districts. It will thus be seen that neither the target figure for procurement this year nor the amount estimated as exportable surplus can be regarded as excessive or beyond the capacity of the district to attain.

Out of the total procurement target of 81,200 tons only 14,389 tons had been procured up to the end of March; and out of the exportable surplus of 42,000 tons only 8,216 tons have been moved out of the district. The result of this very

unsatisfactory procurement was that the export quota of 4,000 tons for March had to be cancelled because there was no rice available to fulfil it and the stock of the district fell to the phenomi-nally low figure of 384 tons at the end of March.

Rainfall.

	Average.	Actual.		Average.	Actual.
1946—			1946—		
April ..	0·7	0·9	October ..	5·8	2·9
May ..	2·2	1·8	November.	3·4	15·1
June ..	3·3	3·6	December.	0·5	0·2
July ..	4·3	5·8	1947—		
August ..	6·1	4·2	January ..	0·2	..
September.	5·3	3·9	February.	0·4	0·1
			March ..	0·4	..
South-west monsoon.	21·9	21·2	North-east monsoon.	10·7	18·3

Total for the year—
Average .. 32·6
Actual .. 39·5

There are two main causes for this exceptionally bad procurement results during the months of January, February and March this year as compared with last year. The first is that the ryots expected that the price of paddy would be raised or that the Government would give a bonus. Repeated declarations were made that neither would be done because the Government of India had ruled against an increase as a matter of All-India policy. But the ryots still seem to hold that there might be some increase in the offing. Even so recently as the 16th of this month, Dr. Ranga is reported in the "Indian Express" to have stated that on his authority he advised the ryots "if necessary to resort to satyagraha by not yielding their stocks to the Government and letting it be acquired by force. Then Dr. Rajan, the Food Minister, would be forced to fly to Delhi and fight for increasing paddy price." The second cause is the change over the agency of procurement from the millers to the producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies. The fact that the societies have proved

(*Continued on page* 17)

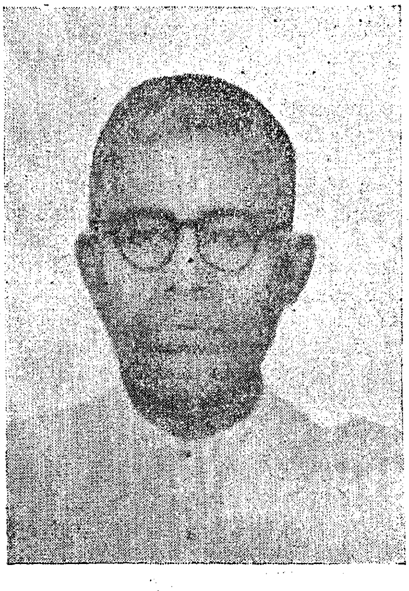
Government's Textile Policy Explained

Hon'ble Mr. Bhaktavatsalam's Statement in Assembly

The following statement was made by the Hon'ble Minister for Public Works and Planning on the floor of the Assembly on 24th April 1947 :—

The controversy about the textile policy of this Government started with the decision of the Government to surrender to the Government of India the 352,000 spindles allotted to this Province under the post-war development plan. While on the one hand it was considered that this surrender of the spindles already allotted was not in the interests of this Province and that it was not consistent with the cloth requirements of this Province, it was maintained by the former Ministry that this must be done in the interests of the development of khadi. In order to appreciate the problem fully I shall recapitulate the history of the textile policy.

In 1945 the Government of India called for applications from those interested in textile mills for the registration for import of textile machinery. The Government of Madras then informed the Government of India that as this Province was comparatively undeveloped in the textile industry, they desired to be consulted before applications from this Province were accepted.



Hon'ble Mr. M. Bakthavatsalam

Both the Government of India and this Government were interested in the development of textile industry on a rational basis. The applications

received by the Government of India were therefore sent to this Government and certain recommendations were made. On the basis of these recommendations, the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, informed this Government in April 1946 that a quota of 352,000 spindles, of which 152,000 were of fine and 200,000 were for coarse yarn, were allotted to this Province. The Government of India issued necessary permission for raising capital and import licences to promoters of textile mills. The net result of the scheme was that nine existing mills were to be expanded so as to be raised into economic units, and twenty-five new mills were to be started. The allottees proceeded with the floatation of companies, raising capital, starting construction of buildings and placing orders for the necessary machinery. The Ministry then assumed charge of the affairs of this Province and decided on an intensive scheme of khadi development. The details of the scheme have already been placed on the table of the House. It was felt that, in order to implement fully the khadi scheme, competition from mills should be avoided as far as possible. Consequently, the Government decided to surrender the spindles allotted to this Province and addressed the Government of India accordingly. The Government of India however, did not agree to this surrender and informed this Government that the cancellation of the permits already issued would be a breach of faith and would lead them into litigation which they wanted to avoid. The Government of Madras, however, were not satisfied with this reply and after having obtained competent legal advice again approached the Government of India and informed them that as neither the Government of India nor the Government of Madras were aware, at the time of the allotment of spindles, of the khadi scheme, there was every reason why the proposed surrender of spindles should be accepted by the Government of India. But the Government of India did not agree with the opinion put forth by this Government and they reiterated that they were not prepared to face possible litigation and that the opinion of this Government ignored the moral obligations arising from the fact that the Government of India, on the advice of the Madras Government, had issued licences to individuals who had involved themselves in heavy expenditure and would suffer greatly and most unfairly if those licences were cancelled. The Government of India in their reply further stated that they could not accept the legal point made out in the communication from this Government that the adoption of the khadi scheme would constitute a reason of State justifying the Government in resiling from its commitments. The Government of India therefore were not prepared to accept the attitude assumed by the Government of Madras and would not withdraw the licences already issued. This reply was received on the 15th of March 1947 and was considered by the last Ministry who did not however take a decision on it. We have therefore to take a decision on the subject and have decided that in the circumstances we should not pursue the question further with the Government of India. I wish to make it clear that there is no difference of opinion on this side of the House in regard to the need for going forward with the khadi scheme. The khadi scheme that was already approved by the Government and is being worked in the districts will be vigorously pursued. We also propose to implement effectively the resolution passed by the All-India Spinners Association at its meeting in Delhi on the 9th October 1946 for the extensive development of khadi. The intensive part of the khadi scheme has already been introduced in seven selected firkas. The extensive part of the scheme will be introduced shortly in twenty-seven other firkas.

I wish to reiterate there will thus be no deviation from the policy so far pursued regarding the development of khadi. Just as the previous Ministry had agreed to permit the import of necessary spindles for replacement of the existing machinery, this Ministry has decided to accept the spindles already allotted for this Province in the circumstances pointed out above.

Madras Government Press Notes

Food and Clothing

Delivering Rice instead of Paddy

To clear any ambiguities in the Press Note issued earlier, the Government wish to make it clear that the concession allowed of delivering rice in lieu of paddy applies to all districts. Prices for only five districts were mentioned in the Press Note as information was immediately available only in regard to those five districts. The Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Collectors concerned

will work out and notify the price for rice in regard to the other districts.

Producers have now to obtain permits for hulling in the mills paddy which they are allowed to retain for their own consumption. It is possible that millers would require similar permits for paddy intended for sale as rice to the Government or their agents. The Commissioner of Civil Supplies is being requested to work out and issue suitable instructions to Collectors which will enable the producers to convert the paddy which they intend to sell as rice without delay or inconvenience.

[11th April]

Co-operative Societies in Malabar

There have been reports in the Press that the Government are examining the suitability and the general working of the Producers-*cum*-Consumers Co-operative Societies for efficient procurement with a view to decide about their future. The Government understand that this has created a feeling of uneasiness in the Malabar district. The societies have been doing good work in Malabar district and the Government have no intention of disturbing the societies in that district. On the contrary proposals to give them more work are under consideration. The survey and examination is confined to the societies in the four districts of East Godavari, West Godavari Kistna and Guntur where the societies have only recently been formed.

[15th April]

Cut in Firewood Ration

As supplies of firewood to Madras city fell below expectations due to transport difficulties especially over the canal basin, following the rains in November and December 1946, the present stock position of firewood is unsatisfactory. The stocks of firewood stood at about 13,000 tons on 31st March 1947 while the normal requirements of the city under the Rationing Scheme are about 25,000 tons per mensem. Unless the supply position improves during April 1947 and the succeeding months, it will not be possible for the Government to maintain the normal scale of rations of firewood. The Government are taking steps to speed up supplies from different sources. However, as it will be some time before the stock position reaches the safe level, the Government have decided to impose a cut of 25 per cent in the firewood rations for a period of one month commencing from the 3rd quarter of April 1947.

[16th April]

Price of Palmyrah Jaggery

The Government have had under consideration the question of fixing the prices of Palmyrah Jaggery particularly in the districts of Tinnevelly and West Godavari which are the main producing centres. They have now decided not to fix any statutory price for Palmyrah Jaggery.

[16th April]

Movement of Coconut

The Government have decided to remove with immediate effect the ban on the inter-district movement of cocoanuts, copra and cocoanut oil as also the control over the prices of cocoanuts. Exports outside the province of cocoanuts, copra and cocoanut oil will, however, continue to be controlled as hitherto and can be made only on permits issued by Collectors. No export of cocoanut oil outside the province will be allowed. Export of copra will be allowed to Sind and Bombay provinces only, up to the limits prescribed by the Government of India. Export of cocoanuts will be permitted after taking into account the local requirements and up to quantities that may be prescribed from time to time.

[17th April]

Food Control Prosecutions

There were about 325 prosecutions launched in the various magisterial courts of the province during the fortnight ending 31st March 1947, in respect of offences against the Foodgrains Control Orders and the Rationing Regulations. About 207 cases have resulted in convictions and sentences.

Other cases are sub-judice and the results are awaited.

Tanjore has headed the list in the matter of prosecutions for offences against the Foodgrains Control Orders and the Rationing Regulations with 93 cases.

[18th April]

Food Position in the Circars

In November last the Government decided to organize Producers-*cum*-consumers co-operative societies in the four delta taluks of the Circar districts of West Godavari, East Godavari, Kistna and Guntur with the object of entrusting the procurement of the surplus foodgrains as well as the distribution of imported foodgrains and other controlled articles to these societies as a part of the

social economic development plan for the province. When the decision to form the societies was taken, the season appeared to be favourable and if it had been favourable it would not have mattered if the societies had taken time over perfecting their procurement machinery. Unfortunately, heavy rains in November and December damaged rice crops in certain districts and millets crop in most of the districts. The recent heavy rains last week have also added to the damage. The following table shows the food position as can be judged at present :—

effective. It is in this context that the performance of the Producers-*cum*-consumers co-operative societies in the circars gives room for anxiety. Out of a target for procurement of 699,500 tons up to the end of March in the four districts mentioned above, only 225,640 tons have been procured so far. The quantity procured in January, February and March is 150,010 tons of which 55,606 tons only was procured by the societies. Last year the then procuring agents of the Government procured 209,167 tons for the same period. In the Guntur district procurement has been very inadequate

		Rice. TONS.	Millets. TONS.	Wheat and wheat products. TONS.
1	Requirements of the Province from now on to the end of October to feed the rationed population.	1,272,000	114,800	69,100
2	Estimate of quantity likely to be procured up to the end of October from now.	900,616	142,662	..
3	Balance out of allotments promised by the Government of India still to be received.	98,885	..	..
4	Net deficit	—272,499	+ 27,562	— 69,100
		— 314,097 tons.		

There is thus an unbridged gap of 272,499 tons of rice and 314,037 tons of all foodgrains together. The millets crops have generally been poor. It is not likely that the Government of India will be able to make any more substantial allotments to this Province unless their own prospects of imports materially improve. The pulses position too is very unsatisfactory. As against a deficit of about 146,000 tons of blackgram and redgram, the Government of India have allotted only 33,275 tons and even this quantity is not expected to be received owing to the failure of crops in Hyderabad and Central Provinces, the two main sources of supply. The shortage of millets and pulses will thus be reflected in increased strain on rice. The position in the deficit districts continues to cause anxiety. On 18th April 1946 the stocks of rice under Government control were 474,137 tons. On 10th April 1947, this year, which is indisputably better than the last in the matter of production, the stocks amounted to only 276,044 tons, i.e., nearly 200,000 tons less. During the last three months the stocks in the city have been ranging from 0·5 to 0·7 of a month's off-take. In Coimbatore, East Godavari, Salem and the Nilgiris, the stocks available are less than a month's requirements. Guntur which is a surplus district is facing a crisis in its uplands. As the monsoon will be setting in soon, it is necessary to build up a stock of three months requirements in Malabar before very long whereas the district has to present only 1·3 of a month's stocks. South Kanara wants also replenishment against the monsoon. In the circumstances it is absolutely essential that our procurement machinery should be cent per cent

with the result that not only the deficit districts which depend for supply on exports are running short but in the district itself rural rationing has partially broken down. Kistna district is fast reaching a similar situation. In the circumstances and in view of the imperative need to procure the maximum quantity with the minimum delay, the Government have regretfully decided to suspend the procuring agency given to these societies and restore the work of procurement to the previous procuring agencies including Co-operative Stores for the rest of the current kharif year, i.e., up to the end of October 1947, in the districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur. In these districts where former Co-operative agencies were doing procurement, they will be given the option to take up the work again. The Government are anxious to prevent the frittering away of the large share capital collected by these societies, and to put the societies to the best use possible. They will appoint a special agency without delay to examine and devise suitable means for stabilising these societies for the benefit of the community.

The Government wish to take this opportunity to clear some misunderstanding that appears to have arisen in the matter of prices. It has come to their notice that it is being represented to ryots that as a result of agitation the Government have now enhanced the prices and further enhancement can be expected by adopting the same means. Talks of Satyagraha till prices are enhanced to the satisfaction of producers are also being heard. The Government desire it to be understood that their recent orders directing that producers should

be paid annas four more than at present for delivery at village site does not mean that there has been any real enhancement of the market price. This increase in the price paid to the producers has been found not by enhancing the consumers' prices but by reducing the allowances available to the intermediaries. This does not mean to say that there has been any real enhancement of the price and as has been pointed out on more than one occasion, this Government cannot enhance the prices to consumers without the consent of the Government of India; for the same reason they cannot give any bonus either. In the circumstances talks about the Government having gone back on their declarations not to enhance the prices and of having really enhanced the prices now are entirely misconceived. It is in their anxiety to meet the producers' points of view to the utmost extent possible that the Government have decided to cut down the allowances given to the intermediaries to the bone and to pass on the increased benefit to producers. This is the utmost that the Government can do in the present circumstances.

The facts stated above will make it clear that Government cannot view with equanimity any decline in procurement and must take all possible steps to see that the maximum quantity is procured in order to avert a food crisis. The Government therefore wish all producers to realise the present critical food situation and would request them not to be misled by exhortations that an increase in price can be secured by keeping up an agitation for it or by Satyagraha and to co-operate with the Government by yielding up all their surplus to the Government Procuring Agents without delay.

[23rd April]

Milling of Paddy

Government have issued orders under the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act of 1946 that no owner or other person in charge of a mill in any of the districts mentioned below, located in the areas in which rationing is enforced not by statutory but by executive orders, shall mill paddy brought to it for milling except on production of the authority or authorities mentioned in the schedule to the order. The owner or other person in charge of a mill is ordered to maintain accounts in prescribed forms for the quantity milled each day. The accounts shall be open to inspection by the Rationing Officers and the Officers of the Revenue Department of and above the rank of Revenue Inspectors. If any person contravenes any of the provisions of this order, then without prejudice to any other punishment to which he may be liable, any court trying such contravention shall direct that any stock of rice or paddy together with the containers and coverings thereof in respect of which the Court is satisfied that such provision has been contravened, shall be forfeited to the Government unless the Court is of the opinion that such direction should not be made in respect of the whole or any part of such stocks as the case may be.

The districts to which this order shall apply are—

Anantapur, Bellary, Chingleput, Chittoor, Coimbatore, Cuddapah, East Godavari, Guntur, Kistna, Kurnool, Madura, Nellore, North Arcot, Ramnad, Salem, South Arcot, South Kanara, Tanjore, The Nilgiris, Tinnevelly, Trichinopoly, Vizagapatam and West Godavari.

Among the class of persons who can get rice milled are—

1. Producers or receivers of rent in kind who are ration cardholders, on a permit issued by the Tahsildar or Taluk Supply Officer concerned;

2. ration cardholders on the basis of the ration cards possessed by them;

3. authorized wholesalers selected for the distribution of rice in rural areas on the authorization issued by the Tahsildars or Taluk Supply Officers and licences issued by the Commercial Tax Officers; and

4. other class of persons on special permits issued by Tahsildars or Taluk Supply Officers.

[23rd April]

Exemption from Sales Tax

The question of exempting the 'retail consignees' in the scheme of distribution of mill cloth in this province from liability to the payment of sales tax in respect of their transactions has been engaging the attention of the Government for some time past. It has been represented to the Government on behalf of the retail consignees that the Provincial Textile Commissioner, Madras, informed them that they would not be required to pay sales tax in respect of their transactions and that they undertook the distribution work under this assurance and did not collect sales tax from the retail dealers to whom they distributed cloth. In view of this fact the Government consider that it would be unfair to require the retail consignees to pay sales tax now in respect of their transactions. They have accordingly

issued orders exempting the retail consignees from the payment of sales tax in respect of their transactions which have taken place till the end of the financial year 1946–47. The question whether this exemption should be continued beyond 1946–47 will be examined by the Government afresh and orders issued in due course.

[22nd April]

No Ban on Export of Meat

According to a notification issued by the Government in the Food Department, the order prohibiting the export of meat to places in India outside the province of Madras except under permits has been rescinded. The notification takes effect from the date of its publication in *Fort St. George Gazette*.

According to another notification, the Government have rescinded the order controlling the distribution of yellow cholam.

[23rd April]

Madras Government Textile Policy

In April 1946 the Government of India allotted 352,000 (200,000 coarse and 152,000 fine) spindles to this province under the Post-war Development Plan. These spindles were allotted on the recommendations of this Government to 9 existing mills and 25 new mills to be started in this province. The Government of India also sanctioned the issue of capital and granted import licences in all these cases. The promoters of the several mills have proceeded with the construction of the necessary building, invited and collected share capital and placed orders for the machinery. These mills are at present in various stages of development.

When subsequently the Government of Madras launched a scheme for encouraging hand-spinning and hand-weaving in the province, they considered that the expansion of the mill industry might impede the progress of the Khadi Scheme. They therefore revised their policy in regard to the textile mill industry and surrendered to the Government of India the spindles already allotted to this province. The managements of the mills who had secured allotments of spindles were informed accordingly.

The Government of India, however, did not agree to the cancellation of the allotments already made on the ground that it would amount to a breach of faith on their part and involve them in litigation. This Government urged the Government of India to reconsider their decision, but the Government of India only reiterated the view that they had taken. In view of this attitude of the Government of India, this Government have anxiously studied the whole question and feel that both for moral and legal reasons they should not insist on the surrender of the spindle allotted to this province. They have accordingly decided to withdraw the surrender of spindles already offered by the Government of India.

The Government wish to make it perfectly clear in this context that the acceptance of the quota of spindles alotted to this province does not mean any departure from their Khadi Scheme, the intensive part of which has already been introduced in 7 selected firkas and the extensive part of which is proposed to be introduced shortly in 27 other firkas. The scheme which has been formulated in consultation with the All-India Spinners' Association will be pursued vigorously and it will give effect to the resolutions passed by that body at Delhi, on 9th October 1946.

[24th April]

Charges for Cloth Processing

There have been widespread complaints from consumers of cloth in the province regarding the exhorbitant charges made for bleaching, dyeing and printing (hand processes) over and above the price of cloth in the unprocessed state, and several concrete cases of levy of such charges have recently been noticed by the Textile Control Department. As such processing is carried on in this province mostly by small processors, the Government have been trying to avoid any drastic measures, but unscrupulous processors and dealers have been exploiting the absence of statutory control. The Government have therefore decided, in the interests of consumers, to take adequate powers to control processors, and have accordingly promulgated the Madras Processed Cloth (Control) Order, 1947, which came into force from 22nd April 1947.

A Provincial Control Order is necessary because the All-India control measure on the subject, namely, the Textile Commissioner's notification issued under the Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order, as amended up to date, does not apply to—

(1) handloom cloth (including khadi),

(2) hand-printed mill cloth (except blotch and screen-printed cloth),

(3) Junnadi sarees, and

(4) mill cloth processed by hand processors employing less than ten persons and not using power.

The Provincial Control Order will apply to these classes of cloth. In the case of handloom cloth the Provincial Order will apply not only to such cloth woven from mill made yarn but also to khadi, whether blotch or screen printed or processed otherwise.

The processors cannot exceed the maximum processing charges which will be notified by the Provincial Textile Commissioner for each kind of processing, whether the processed cloth is intended for sale or for the bona fide personal use of a consumer.

Stamping of prices will be enforced in respect of all processed cloth other than those intended for the bona fide personal use of consumers. The stamping will be done by Processing Inspectors appointed by the Collectors, and a stamping fee of one pie per yard will be levied. The necessary additional staff of Inspectors will be appointed in processing centres where this stamping work also cannot be attended to by the Inspectors appointed under the Madras Handloom Cloth (Control) Order, 1947. The date from which stamping will be enforced in each processing centre will be duly notified by the Collector.

As textile mills are covered by the Textile Commissioner's Notification referred to above the provisions of the Provincial Order will not be applicable to them.

The maximum prices at which processed cloth may be sold by the processors thereof, and the dealers therein, will also be notified by the Provincial Textile Commissioner.

The Control Order contains provisions, on the usual lines, conferring powers of inspection and inquiry, as well as penal provisions for securing the effective enforcement of the Order.

The Order confers powers also on the Provincial Textile Commissioner to prohibit extravagant types of processing which involves waste of dye and chemicals in these times of short supply and which lead to increased cost of cloth for the consumer.

Dyers and printers have to take out permits on payment of an annual fee of Rs. 5 under the Cotton Textiles (Raw Materials and Stores) Order, 1946 and are subject to the provisions of that Order and the notifications issued thereunder. No licensing provisions have therefore been incorporated in the new provincial Order.

[24th April]

Food Ration may be Reduced

In accordance with their policy of restoring the 12 ounce rice ration throughout the Province the Government have decided to increase the rice ration in Malabar district to 12 ounces from the 4th May 1947. This decision has been taken on the assumption that the Province will receive adequate imports of rice from other Provinces and States and from overseas during the coming months as the Provincial resources are limited and insufficient to maiintain by themselves the existing scale of ration. The Government therefore wish to make it clear that if imports from outside fail or become inadequate, there may have to be a reduction once again, perhaps even to 8 oz.

Price of Brown Sugar

Brown Sugar, for purposes of price control, has hitherto been treated as jaggery and the prices fixed in the order dated, 19th November 1946, for cane jaggery applied to it. Since representations have been made to Government that a higher price than that allowed for jaggery should be fixed for brown sugar, as its manufacturing process is more elaborate and costly, the Government, with the concurrence of the Government of India, have decided to fix the price of brown sugar at a level higher by Rs. 3 per Imperial maund than the price of jaggery (I sort).

The ceiling price per Imperial maund of brown sugar, exclusive of sales tax, in each district shall be as follows: Vizagapatam, Rs. 16–8–0; East Godavari, Rs. 17; Bellary, Rs. 17; Madras City, Rs. 19–8–0; West Godavari, Rs. 19; Kistna, Rs. 19; Chittoor, Rs. 17–8–0; North Arcot, Rs. 17–8–0; South Arcot, Rs. 17; Coimbatore, Rs. 18; Trichinopoly, Rs. 17–8–0; Guntur, Rs. 19; Kurnool, Rs. 19; Cuddapah, Rs. 19; Nellore, Rs. 19–8–0; Chingleput, Rs. 19–8–0; Tanjore, Rs. 19–8–0; Malabar, Rs. 20; Madura, Rs. 19–8–0; Ramnad, Rs. 19–8–0; Tinnevelly, Rs. 20; Nilgiris, Rs. 20–8–0; Salem, Rs. 17–8–0; South Kanara, Rs. 17–8–0; Anantapur, Rupees 17–8–0.

For purposes of this order, brown sugar, as distinguished from Bura, Aska and country sugar, shall mean highly purified and refined sugar, non-crystalline, powdery and brownish in colour.

[25th April]

Mill Cloth Ration Cards

In order to prevent the dealers and consumers from practising fraud under the existing system of mill cloth rationing, the Government have ordered that the following precautions should be taken:—

No cloth should be sold to a customer unless he produces also his firewood ration card (in

Madras City) or his food ration card (in the mofussil) along with his cloth ration card. In the case of those wo do not possess the firewood or food ration card,—a certificate to that effect by a competent authority to be specified by the Collector, should be produced along with the cloth ration card. No supply of cloth should be made against any ration card which contains any corrections, or erasures or overwritings whether attested or not. If a cardholder finds that his ration card contains erasures or corrections or overwritings, he should return it to the Inspecting Assistant Textile Commissioner of the district, so that it may be replaced, after due verification, by a fresh card without any corrections, overwritings or erasures.

When any dealer suspects the genuineness of a ration card, he should withhold supplies against that card unless and until the Inspecting Assistant Textile Commissioner, after examining the card and conducting investigations, if necessary, is satisfied as to the genuineness of the card and authorises supply of mill cloth.

In this connection, the Government have requested the non-official Inspection Sub-Committees in the mofussil and the local Inspecting officers to trace the buyers with reference to the duplicate copies of the bills kept by the dealers in as many cases as possible, and check whether the purchases have been made against genuine cards.

[25th April]

Procurement Orders Modified

The Government have rescinded the order, dated 21st January 1944 delegating powers to the Collectors of districts and Revenue Divisional Officers to control the prices or rates of cholam and cumbu sold otherwise than at a primary wholesale market, as also the order, dated 29th October 1945 relating to the fixation of maximum wholesale prices for cumbu and cholam in primary wholesale markets in the province of Madras.

The Government have also rescinded the order issued by the Collector of Anantapur (published with the notification, dated 19th April 1946 in the Extraordinary issue of the *Anantapur District Gazette*, dated 25th April 1946) relating to the official procurement of grains and pulses from producers in Anantapur district, as also the order issued by the Collector of Anantapur (published with the notification, dated 17th May 1946 in the Extraordinary issue of the *Anantapur District Gazette*, dated 27th May 1946) directing the producers of grains and pulses to sell their produce only to wholesale co-operative stores or other agents authorised by the Collector.

[25th April]

Handloom Cloth Production Order

The Government have issued the Madras Handloom Cloth Production (Control) Order, 1947, the provisions of which shall be in addition to any other law for the time being in force.

According to the scope of the order referred to above, the Provincial Textile Commissioner, Madras, may from time to time issue directions to any producer regarding the varieties and specifications of cloth and the maximum or minimum quantities thereof, which he shall or shall not manufacture during such periods, as may be specified in the directions.

The directions may be given to individual producers or to producers generally or to any class of producers specified in the directions.

[25th April]

Development

Mettur Mill Dispute

The Mettur Mill Workers Union gave notice on 29th December 1946 that if their 14 demands were not accepted within fourteen days from 30th December 1946, they would go on strike. These demands related to the recognition of the Union, payment of six months bonus with allowances, housing, provision of educational facilities, institution of a Provident Fund and other conditions of service. The Commissioner of Labour informed the Secretary of the Union on 13th January 1947 that the Union would have to be recognized under the Trade Unions Amendment Bill already introduced in the Central Legislative Assembly, that most of the other demands should be placed before the Court of Enquiry already constituted, that decisions had been taken in regard to two issues and that the remaining issues could be settled by conciliation. He therefore advised the Union not to go on strike. But the workers went on strike on 15th February 1947.

At a meeting of the Union held on 23rd February 1947, the workers are reported to have decided to await the decision of the Prime Minister on

the award of bonus but to continue the strike until the other thirteen demands were conceded even though the Prime Minister had called on the workers to resume work. The Management has agreed to pay to workers five month's wage as bonus in accordance with the Prime Minister's decision relating to Coimbatore. The President of the Union has accordingly been advised by the Commissioner of Labour to ask workers to resume work.

[11th April]

Concessions for Hiring Pumps

In connexion with the food production drive last year, the Government permitted the Director of Agriculture and the Director of Industries and Commerce to reduce the hire charges for oil-engine pump sets (including the trailer pumps) with their Departments to not less than Re. 1 per day and to waive the transport charges or part thereof where necessary. The normal hire rates for these pumps are Rs. 3 per day or Rs. 75 per mensem. The Government similarly fixed the concessional rates for petrol pump sets with the Agricultural Department at As. 8 per day or Rs. 10 per mensem for periods of one month and more. The normal rate fixed for these pumps is Re. 1 per day subject to a maximum of Rs. 20 per month. The concessional rates for oil engine pumps expired by 31st December 1946 and those for petrol pumps lapsed on 5th March 1947. Representations have now been made to the Government that the withdrawal of the concessional rates at present is a hardship to the ryots. The Government have considered the question and have decided to extend the concessional rates of hire charges mentioned above for oil engine and petrol pump sets up to the end of June 1947 in order to assist ryots to grow food crops in the off-season.

[18th April]

B. & C. Mills Strike

The strike in the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills has been going on since the 11th of March, notwithstanding all the efforts of the Government to effect a settlement. The workers have assumed the attitude that negotiations for a settlement should be preceded by the release of Mr. Anthony Pillai. The arrest of Mr. Anthony Pillai was ordered because he was not prepared to agree to Government intervention or to participate in the Court of Enquiry duly constituted by the Government. Having precipitated a strike on certain important matters, decisions relating to which would have vast repercussions on industries in the Province, he was content to let the workers remain idle without making any serious effort at compromise. His defiance of authority could not be tolerated and the Government feel strongly that his release would only defer a solution of the dispute between the workers and the management. The Government have therefore made it clear to the workers' representatives that they cannot agree to the release of Mr. Anthony Pillai until work is resumed in the Mills and the workers agree to abide by the decision of the Court of Enquiry. The strike has been peaceful on the whole but instances of aggressive tactics by the workers are increasing and the Government will take all steps possible to prevent violence and disorder.

The Government have already made it clear to various labour leaders that their offer for a settlement cannot be held open indefinitely. They would therefore appeal to the workers once again to go back to work and abide by the decision of the Court of Enquiry. The strike is illegal and its continuance is illegal and unnecessary. The Government are anxious that so many workers should not be out of employment and that the production of cloth should not suffer further. If the workers fail to respond to this appeal before the evening of Wednesday, the 23rd April, the terms of settlement already offered by Government will be withdrawn and such further action as the Government deem fit will be taken.

[21st April]

Co-operative Housing Scheme

To relieve immediately the shortage of housing accommodation in the City of Madras, Government have decided that a new Co-operative House Construction Society, Limited, should be formed. It will undertake the acquisition of house sites and the construction of dwelling houses thereon for its members with its own share-capital and loans obtained from Government. The houses so constructed will be sold to members with the sites.

Three areas have been selected by Government as suitable for the proposed scheme. The first is 75 acres in extent in the Urur village near Adyar. It is situated within a furlong of the Elliots Beach. The second comprising 60 acres belonging to Kapaleswar Temple is situated between St. Mary's Church Road, Brodies Road and Pughs Road. The third comprising about 50 acres in extent is situated in the Ayanavaram village north of the Mental Hospital, Kilpauk.

Three classes of houses will be constructed by the Society according to type-designs: 'A' class on a plot of six grounds (30 cents) costing Rs. 15,000 exclusive of site value and amenities, 'B' class on a plot of about four grounds (20 cents) costing Rs. 10,000 exclusive of site value and amenities, and 'C' class on a plot of two grounds (10 cents) costing Rs. 5,000 exclusive of site value and amenities. The Society will construct A, B and C classes of houses in Urur and A and B classes only in the Mylapore area, and 'C' class houses only, in Ayanavaram. It is expected that about 1,000 houses in all the three classes can be constructed, in these areas.

It is hoped that the cost of a house site including the lay-out, roads, etc., will come to about Rs. 5,000 for the A class of building, about Rs. 3,500 for the B class, and Rs. 1,750 for the C class. This is only an approximate estimate and may come to something more or less. Government have under consideration a proposal to control the value of building sites so as to prevent speculation and profiteering by land-owners. The sites selected will be acquired by the proposed Society under the 'Land Acquisition Act' if they are not available by private negotiations.

Those who wish to purchase houses in the Society will have to pay the cost of the site (including amenities) as shares in the Society. The Society will acquire the lands referred to above with its share-capital and construct the houses thereon with the aid of state loans obtained on the security of the sites. The construction of the houses will be done by the Society by engaging building firms or contractors of repute who will work under the supervision of the Society or by employing its own engineers for the purpose. Government will assist the Society in procuring building materials.

When the houses are completed they will be allotted to members on the hire-purchase system. A member will have to pay to the Society one-fifth of the total cost of the house i.e., of the land, amenities and building after the allotment of the sites and before the commencement of the construction. The balance will be recovered from him after his occupation of the house in easy instalments over a period of 20 years together with interest at $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent per annum, which is $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent over the rate at which the Government now lend to Co-operative Building Societies.

Applicants for admission as members in the proposed Society may file their application with the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Government Press Buildings, Mount Road, Madras before the 5th May 1947, if they have not done so already. Those who already own more than one house in the City of Madras cannot apply for membership; but those who do not own any houses will be given preference. In any case only one house will be constructed by the Society for each applicant. Government servants of all departments may also apply. Amendments to the Government Servants' Conduct Rules on this behalf are under consideration.

[24th April]

Conference of Employers and Employees Postponed

In their Press Communiqué dated the 8th April 1947, Government announced their intention of convening a Conference of employers and employees in the Presidency on Monday the 12th May 1947 at the Secretariat, Fort St. George, with a view to appraise properly the difficulties on both sides and to evolve a labour policy that will ensure peace and contentment among workers and requested all interested parties to attend the conference. Owing to certain unavoidable circumstances, the conference has been postponed to Monday the 26th May 1947. Government trust that the minimum number of representatives of all interested parties will attend the conference on that day even though individual invitations are not received by them. [25th April]

Enquiry into Labour Conditions

With a view to have a comprehensive picture of the conditions of service of the workers in the Motor Transport Services, Motor Transport Workshops, Engineering Firms and Type Foundries in Madras City and the mofussil and to standardise them as far as possible, Government have appointed Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya, Retired District and Sessions Judge as a Court of Enquiry. The Court which will, among other matters enquire into the problems connected with the working conditions of labour such as wages, dearness allowance, bonus, leave facilities, etc., in these industries, has already commenced its work in respect of Motor Transport Services and Motor Transport Workshops. As there are a large number of companies and Fleet owners scattered throughout the Presidency the Court is unable to send individual invitations to them and to workers' unions. Interested parties may therefore make written representations to the Court of Enquiry at Block No. XVI, Fort St. George, Madras, so as to reach it before the 15th May at the latest. [April 25]

Discovery of Minerals in Salem

The occurrence of the following minerals has been noticed in certain villages of Tiruchengode, Namakkal, Rasipur and Omalur taluks of the Salem district by the Geological Survey of India in the course of their investigations during the Field season 1945–46 :

(1) Good charnockites which can be used as building stones has been reported in the following localities :—

(*a*) Around Pudur on Salem road, about 3 miles north of Namakkal.

(*b*) Around Chellappanpatti on the same road, about 6 miles north of Namakkal.

(*c*) At Sendamangalam and the hills south-west of it ·1127 and ·1034.

(*d*) The northern half of Nainar Malai, hills 1988 and 1302 and in the valley enclosed by the Nainar Malai.

(*e*) Along the main road from Rasipur to Salem.

(*f*) A large part of Alavay hill.

(*g*) East and West of Vaiyappamalai along Tiruchengode road.

(*h*) The ridges on the east bank of the Cauvery river at Mettur.

The granite and granitic gneisses of Sita Malai west of Mangavalli and Pakkanadu may yield good material as building stone if careful selection is made avoiding very coarse folspathic material.

Several dyke rocks that are found in the following localities may be useful as good road metal :—

(*a*) On Salem-Namakkal road between Chellepanpatti and Kalangani villages.

(*b*) Two miles west of Sendamangalam.

(*c*) Three miles north of Sendamangalam two dykes cross the Belukkurichchi road.

(*d*) A prominent dyke running north-west—south-east 2 miles west of Balukkurichchi.

(*e*) A dyke west of Vaiyappamalai on Tiruchengode road.

(*f*) On the east bank of the Cauvery, east and north of the Mettur Mills.

(2) Pink coloured potash felspar associated with pegnatites has been reported in the following localities :—

(*a*) Between Jalakandapuram and Pakkanadu, especially south of 1044.

(*b*) Between Jalakandapuram and Kuppampatti. Here massive felspar and quartz occur in the pegmatites.

(*c*) On the Chorka Malai, between Nangavalli and Tolasampatti.

(*d*) Between Pakkanadu and Oravappatti.

(*e*) Just north of Settukkappattiyur (11° 43′ ; 77° 57′).

[28th April]

Selection of Site for Tungabhadra Project

At a Conference held at Hospet in the last week of January 1947 by the Hon'ble Ministers, Public Works and Revenue, regarding the valuation of the land to be acquired for the Tungabhadra Project, representations were made that the site of the Dam should have been at Thimmalapuram instead of at Mallapuram, that the latter had been chosen largely to help the Andhras, thought it is the Karnatakas who are going to be dispossessed of their lands which will be taken up for the Project works and that the Mallapuram scheme will benefit only dry cultivation of about 3 lakhs of acres while nearly 45,000 acres will be submerged and 25,000 people rendered homeless and destitute. It is therefore obvious that certain misapprehensions are prevalent, and Government desire that the full facts should be known so that the misapprehensions may disappear.

The Mallapuram site was selected in 1905 by Mr. Mackenzie (Superintending Engineer, Tungabhadra-Pennar Projects) after inspecting various sites from the confluence of Tungabhadra with Kistna and higher up to the various tributaries of Tungabhadra. This site has a good foundation, with hills on both sides of the river allowing of a short dam with proportionately good capacity. According to Mr. Benton (Inspector-General of Irrigation, 1906), the site is satisfactory from all accounts and best suited for the Headworks. Mr. Ireland (Executive Engineer on special duty on Tungabhadra Project, 1929) was of the opinion that though a dam at Thimmalapuram was possible as an engineering proposition, it had fewer natural advantages than the Mallapuram site and there was the possibility also of evolving a productive project at the Mallapuram site on the basis of the waters and costs being shared by the Hyderabad Government. The length of the dam at Thimmalapuram is 9,500 feet with another subsidiary earthern dam of 7,400 feet across a gap, whereas the Mallapuram dam is only 8,180 feet long. Moreover, on engineering grounds, the latter is by far superior to the former. The facilities for storage with a moderate dam are greater at Mallapuram. As, according to the agreement with the Hyderabad Government,

only 65,000 M.C. feet of water is at present available for this Province, it is obviously uneconomical to construct a larger reservoir at Thimmalapuram to share this limited quantity. The Thimmalapuram site is far away from the railway line and a road, about 36 miles long, with bridges across several wild streams and rivers like the Hagari will be necessary. Mallapuram is only 3 miles from Hospet railway station. The area submerged under Thimmalapuram reservoir is comparatively large and is for the most part rich, cultivable land in Bombay province. Consequently the cost of acquisition will be higher, which will have to be borne entirely by this Government. Further, the Thimmalapuram Scheme involves long and extensive canals and it contemplated largely wet crops in the Ceded Districts. It has since been decided on the strength of an exhaustive soil survey specially undertaken for the purpose of determining the kind of crops that can be profitably grown that only dry crops with limited irrigation can be raised in the area, and it is on this basis that the Mallapuram scheme has been prepared. The area of submergence under the Thimmalapuram site is 228 square miles of which 125 square miles are in Bombay province comprising of 104 villages out of which 33 will be wholly submerged. The Mallapuram site submerges only 138 square miles, of which only about 5 square miles will be in Bombay Province. The Bombay Government stated that the submersion of the area under the Thimmalapuram scheme would result in large permanent loss of revenue to them besides creating serious administrative difficulties as the project would throw a belt of submergible area right across the centre of the southern half of the Dharwar district which would cut off all the local lines of communication from north to south of the tract submerged, and would entail serious loss and inconvenience to the large and fairly dense population of the Karnatakas living in the neighbour hood. Thus the Thimmalapuram scheme would have created greater and possibly avoidable hardships to the Karnatakas.

It will thus be seen that there are engineering, financial and administrative difficulties in choosing the Thimmalapuram site, and the balance of advantage from all these points of view easily lies with the Mallapuram site. It was therefore chosen after a very careful consideration of all aspects. The two sites are only about 30 miles apart, in a short stretch of the river and the Mallapuram site can confer no special benefits on the Andhras at the expense of the Karnatakas. The scheme, which in its present form is only *partial*, benefits only certain taluks of Bellary and Kurnool districts while the Thimmalapuram scheme would have benefited, besides these areas, large extents in Anantapur and Cuddapah districts and on the other hand caused hardhsip to a larger number of Karnatakas in Bombay Province. As a result of the scheme, the people who are going to be dispossed of their lands, etc., will no doubt, be subject to certain hardship. But in a scheme of this magnitude such hardships are inevitable and a few will have to make some sacrifice for the ultimate good of a very much larger number. It is also hoped that with the compensation that will be given and other facilities that will be provided, even the hardships of the few will be largely mitigated and short-lived.

In view of all that has been stated above, the Government trust that it will be realized that the Project, as at present under execution, has been designed and undertaken in the best interests of the people as a whole of a tract badly in need of facilities of this kind. [28th April

Miscellaneous

Petitions to the Government

In spite of the fact that the public were already informed that any person having a cause for complaint, should in the first instance seek redress from the local authorities and then from the authorities immediately superior to them before approaching the Government, it is found that a large number of petitions are being received by the Government for the issue of licences and permits for cloth and yarn. It will make for expeditious disposal of business, if the persons concerned approach the appropriate local authorities in the first instance. The licensing authority under the Madras Cloth (Dealers) Control Order, 1947, the Madras Yarn (Dealers) Control Order. 1947, the Madras Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Brokers) Control Order, 1947, and the Madras Handloom Cloth (Control) Order 1947, is the Collector or any officer authorized by him, while in the case of the Madras Handloom Cloth (Exports) Control Order, 1947, and the Madras Khadi (Control) Order, 1947, the authority competent to issue a permit or a licence is the Provincial Textile Commissioner. Under the Madras Artificial Silk Yarn (Dealers) Control Order, 1947, the licensing authority is the Commissioner in respect of importers and the Collector or other officer authorised by him in respect of other dealers.

[15th April]

Government Quarters in Ooty

It has appeared in certain sections of the press that some of the occupants of the Government quarters on Stonehouse Hill, Ootacamund, were asked to vacate them for accommodating the staff of the Governor's Secretariat and the Indian Tariff Board. These quarters are intended for the staff of the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Madras, Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor, and the Secretariat, when they move to Ootacamund for summer. During off-season, they were allotted to certain local Government servants on the distinct understanding and subject to a written agreement that they should vacate them on 24 hours notice when required by Government.

The staff of the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor and Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor are moving to Ooty as usual this summer and notices were given to the occupants early in March 1947 to vacate the quarters as it is but right that the staff of the Military Secretary and Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor and Press-men should be allowed to occupy the quarters intended for them but temporarily allotted to others.

Only one occupied building "The Press Manager's quarters" was allotted to the Indian Tariff Board. The occupant is a Deputy Collector. The Subdivisional Officer offered him alternative accommodation but the officer did not accept it. The Collector of the Nilgiris has since been informed not to disturb even this officer.

[18th April]

Women in Health Services

Under the Government of India Act, 1935, a person is not disqualified by reason of sex for being appointed to any service or post under the Government unless otherwise directed by His Excellency the Governor with reference to Provincial and Subordinate Services. As the rules stand at present, women are not disqualified for appointment as First-class Health Officers in the Madras Public Health Service. The Government have accordingly ordered that women medical graduates are also eligible to apply for such posts. Roughly about 66⅔ per cent of the vacancies has been allotted to candidates with war service. Women medical graduates with war service may apply for these posts. In respect of other vacancies amounting to 33⅓ per cent which are thrown open to the public (which term includes war service candidates also) women medical graduates with or without war service are eligible to apply. The women candidates need not possess the prescribed public health qualifications (B.S.Sc.) at the time of appointment, but they are expected to acquire this qualification within a period of four years from the date of their appointment, failing which they will be discharged from service. Fresh applications will accordingly be called for from women candidates by the Madras Public Service Commission. Women candidates with war service should apply to the Surgeon-General for application forms and copies of the pamphlet containing qualifications, etc., for the post of First-class Health Officers. The applications should be submitted to the Surgeon-General (along with the resettlement forms in the case of war service candidates) and the Surgeon-General will forward them to the Service Commission.

[18th April]

Free Movement of Cotton-seed

The Government have decided to remove the ban on the inter-district movement of cotton-seed within the Province. Imports of cotton-seed within the Tinnevelly area will, however, continue to be controlled by the notifications issued under the Cotton Transport Act.

[22nd April]

Control on Certain Metals Revoked

In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 2-A and 9 (2) of the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning Act of 1946, the Government of Madras have directed that in the Food Department Notification, dated 30th September 1946, items relating to brass, copper and non-ferrous metals and aluminium utensils respectively shall be omitted. The following Control Orders, viz., Aluminium Utensils Control Order, 1945, the Non-ferrous Metals Control Order, 1945, the Brass and Copper Control Order, 1945, are ordered to be revoked in so far as they apply to the Province of Madras.

Posts for the Scheduled Castes

It has been the general principle of the Government to give as much encouragement as possible to members of the Scheduled castes in service consistent with the efficiency of the administration. In pursuance of this general principle, the Government have ordered that in filling posts in non-technical subordinate services and posts to which recruitment by transfer is admissible from

the Madras Ministerial Service and such recruitment that is not made on a communal basis, preference should, as far as possible, be given to members of the Scheduled Castes, who are working in the department in which the non-technical services and posts exist.

The Government, however, wish to make it clear that particular care would be taken that there is no fall in efficiency by the indiscriminate application of the preference referred to above.

[22nd April]

Passports for Foreign Travel

It has been observed that many persons intending to travel outside India apply for passport or travel facilities at the last moment and ask for expeditious disposal of their applications on the plea of urgency. In many cases the grant of passports or visas involves references to more than one authority and it is very difficult to complete the procedure in a short time. Intending travellers, even if they get their actual passage allotments a short notice, are usually aware that they are likely to travel in the near future, and there is no reason why they should not apply for passport and other facilities well in advance. A passport once granted is valid for five years and can be renewed further for a period of five years. Prospective travellers are therefore advised to apply for the grant of passport or travel facilities as much in advance as possible of their proposed journey in order to avoid inconvenience to themselves.

[24th April]

Usage of the Term 'Razaka'

The Razaka Zana Seva Sangham, Amalapuram, East Godavari District, has represented to Government that the term 'Razaka' should be adopted in Government records to indicate the Washermen community to the exclusion of all other names like 'dhobies' or 'washermen' as that term is a time-honoured and respectable name approved by all in this Presidency. The Government invite the opinion of the members of the community in this Province on the representation. Such views as the individuals or organizations of members of the community wish to advance may be forwarded to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public (Elections) Department, not later than the 31st May 1947.

[24th April]

Revenue and Expenditure on Revenue Account

According to the Revised Budget for 1946–47, the Revenue to the Government of Madras is Rs. 5,742·92 lakhs. Revenue Accounts to the end of January 1947 stand at Rs. 3,181·95 lakhs as against Rs. 3,108·52 lakhs for the corresponding period in 1946.

The Expenditure on Revenue Account to the end of January 1947 totals Rs. 3,015·33 lakhs as against Rs. 2,379·70 lakhs for the corresponding period in 1946.

The total revenue realized to the end of January 1947 shows an increase of Rs. 73·43 lakhs as compared with the revenue for the corresponding period of 1945–46. The increase is the net effect of increases totalling Rs. 241·40 lakhs and decreases totalling Rs. 167·97 lakhs under the heads noted below.

The increase in Revenue related, among others, to items such as Stamps, Forest, Registration, receipts under Motor Vehicles Acts, Education and Public Health. The decrease was with reference to items such as, among others, Land Revenue, Provincial Excise, Irrigation, Administration of Justice and Industries.

[April 28]

Travellers to Palestine

Intending travellers to Palestine are informed that as from 15th April, 1947, no British subject or British protected person will be admitted into that country, even though his passport is valid for Palestine, unless it carries a special endorsement by a British Passport Issuing Authority valid for a period of 30 days. This applies to passengers in direct transit by air also.

[April 28]

Fees Exemption for Research Students

The Government have ordered that the University Research students and fellows and nominees of the Indian Research Fund Association may be exempted from the payment of fees while undergoing courses of research in the Government Medical Colleges and the attached hospitals.

[April 28]

Procurement Restored to Millers in Circars

(*Continued from page* 3)

inefficient as procuring agents in Guntur district cannot be disputed. In January 1946, millers procured 24,258 tons, in January 1947 the millers procured only 6,032 tons because the producer-*cum*-consumer co-operative societies were about to take over and the millers were restricted to procuring only sufficient for the export quota and for internal consumption and were not allowed to purchase freely to build up stocks. From the 1st of February 1947, the producer-*cum*-consumer co-operative societies started work but as they were not really ready, the millers were allowed to procure 4,700 tons for export only. Actually during February, 5,280 tons were procured in all as against 16,330 tons in February 1946 of which 4,775 tons were procured by the millers and 505 tons by the societies. In March 1947, the societies were given a free hand and the millers were prohibited from procuring anything, and the societies procured 3,077 tons as against 17,031 tons procured by the millers in March 1946. Thus, in all, the societies have succeeded in procuring only 3,582 tons in two months.

The result of the failure of the societies to procure sufficient paddy for the requirements of the district, much less for export, was that the ryots with paddy on their hands sold it in the blackmarket at the highest prices they coud get for it. Undoubtedly, a large quantity of paddy and rice has been sold to the upland taluks ; it is impossible to estimate this amount. This state of affairs was aggravated by the partial failure of millet crops in the upland parts of the district and by the amount of money which the ryots in the upland taluks have got from such paying commercial crops as tobacco. Thus ryots with plenty of money to spend were prepared to pay any amount for the rice from the delta.

The situation at the end of March was therefore very serious. The export quotas had to be cancelled which meant that the deficit districts like Coimbatore, Salem and the Nilgiris ran short and the stock in the district was only 384 tons. Still the situation is being managed with considerable difficulty. Statutory rationing has been maintained in all the five statutory rationed towns and in the rural areas no one has starved though he may have had to buy his needs in the black-market or live on what he had stored. There is plenty of paddy in the district. It is only a question of procuring it. If rice had been brought in from Kistna or any other adjoining surplus districts the incentive to procurement within the district, would have gone. Further, Kistna and the Godavaris have their own commitments and they are struggling hard to fulfil them.

The following measures were therefore taken to relieve the situation in the district :—

From the 1st of April, procurement licences of the societies have been cancelled and given back to the millers. In the first week of April, the millers were only able to procure 200 tons because they had to re-engage their staff, collect again their bandies and make new financial arrangements. From the 9th to 12th of April, in the course of three days, they have procured further 800 tons. Part of the damage has already been done and it is unlikely now that the district will be able to honour the whole of the export quota because so much of the surplus has been sold in the blackmarket. The situation in the district, however, is slowly improving and stocks are now being sent in small quantities to those rural areas most in need. It is desirable to build up further stocks in the district before anything more is exported and owing to the big and unusual demand for rice from the upland taluks, the full export quota of 42,000 tons cannot be met in full but it should be possible to export at least half that quantity in due course provided the district plays its part.

The stock of millets on 1st November 1946 was 546 tons. Since then, 1,618 tons of millets have been sent to the district. The closing stocks for the week ending 10th April 1947 are 537 tons and the district is to receive out of the allotments already made 672 tons. Similarly, the district had 1,117 tons of maize on 1st November 1946 and about 300 tons were diverted from other districts. One would have expected an increase in the offtake of millets as a result of the partial failure of millets crop. But in fact the offtake has gone down as the following figures show :—

	Millets.	Maize.
Offtake in December ..	640	280
Offtake in January ..	345	123
Offtake in February ..	339	64

It is clear from these figures that the millet eaters are unwilling to consume the imported millets but prefer to get hold of rice by fair means or foul. If this tendency persists, it is unnecessary to say that the habitual rice-eaters in the rest of the Province will suffer seriously.

It is obvious that the millers, judged from their performance in the last few days, will be able to show better results than the societies have done if they are assured that procurement will not be

(*Continued on page* 18)

Ex-Servicemen's Co-operative Societies

Report for 1945–46

To resettle ex-servicemen in civil life and to find them employment, the Government sanctioned the following schemes during the year :—

1. Co-operative labour contract societies in the districts of Vizagapatam, Bellary, North Arcot, Madras, Chingleput, Tanjore, Madura, Tinnevelly and Malabar.

2. (*a*) Co-operative metal factories in the districts of Vizagapatam, Tinnevelly, North Arcot, Tanjore and Malabar.

(*b*) Co-operative timber factories in the districts of Vizagapatam, Tinnevelly, North Arcot, Malabar and Chingleput.

(*c*) Co-operative brick and tile factories in the districts of Madura, Bellary, Tinnevelly, North Arcot, Vizagapatam and Kistna.

3. A piggery and poultry farming society in Chingleput district for providing employment to demobolised personnel of the Madras Guards.

The Co-operative department was in administrative charge of the scheme till 8th April 1946. As the Director of Re-settlement and Employment was in charge of the re-settlement work, Government considered that the administrative control of the co-operative societies intended for ex-servicemen should also be with the Director of Re-settlement and Employment and accordingly transferred the control to the Directorate. Subsequently, the statutory powers were also ordered to be vested with the Directorate. The Deputy Directors were invested with the powers of the Registrar under the Madras Co-operative Societies Act VI of 1932 in respect of societies for ex-servicemen.

Societies, membership and share capital.—During the year, 11 societies were registered and started work. There were 1,306 members with a paid up share capital of Rs. 80,295. Of these, only two societies, viz., the Strathie Co-operative Engineering Workshop and the Rahm Piggery and Poultry Farming Society were organized and registered by the Deputy Directors.

Labour sontract cocieties.—There were seven labour contract societies for ex-servicemen. The societies at Madras, Madura, Vizagapatam and Tanjore undertook different contract works. The society at Vellore could not proceed with road work as the members were reluctant to take to up. The Chingleput society did not undertake any work. The societies provided work for 327 members. They undertook work to the value of Rs. 32,300 and executed work to the value of Rs. 8,706. The societies purchased meaterials to the value of Rs. 9,894 and paid Rs. 17,474 as wages.

Co-operative workshops.—Three societies, viz., the Kumbakonam Co-operative Metal Works, the Reid Co-operative Timber Works, Limited, Tiruvottiyur, and the Strathie Engineering Workshop, Madras, were registered and started work. Of these, the first two commenced manufacture of metal wares and timber products, respectively. The Strathie Co-operative Engineering Workshop which was registered at the end of the year under report, i.e., 5th June 1946, could not commence work. Arrangements were made to engage its members in the second and third shifts at the Public Works Workshops, Madras. It was possible to start work only in the beginning of July 1946 (during the current year).

The members of the Kumbakonam Metal Factory and the Reid Timber Works were given training in the respective trades under the Government of India Technical Training Scheme. There were 187 members with a paid up share capital of Rs. 40,674–4–0. A sum of Rs. 9,282 was borrowed as loans of which a sum of Rs. 1,513 was repaid leaving Rs. 7,768 outstanding at the end of the year.

Raw materials worth Rs. 7,406–2–0 were purchased and finished products worth Rs. 3,247–13–0 were sold to the Public. These societies worked at a net total profit of Rs. 1,758 during the year 1945–46.

These factories are newly started and they are expected to show all round developments in the next year.

Piggery and poultry farming society.—The society was registered only at the end of the year, i.e., in June 1946. There were 15 members who contributed Rs. 15,000 towards their shares in the society. The society did not undertake any activities before the close of the year.

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handed over to the societies. They cannot be expected to put out their capital or show any enthusiasm over procurement if there is no likelihood of the societies being given procurement work again this year or their having to transfer any of the stocks which they have procured to the societies. The question of the suitable agency for the four circar districts is being separately examined and the Government will take a decision as soon as possible.

15 MAY 1947

Working of Prohibition Act

Minister's Discussions with Officials

The Hon'ble Mr. Daniel Thomas, Minister for Prohibition, visited Vellore on the 3rd April and held a conference of all the prohibition and ameliorative officers of the district. The working of the Act was discussed, in all its various aspects.

It was pointed out that under the Act, as it now stands, only persons who are actually found distilling illicit liquor or in possession of distilling materials or liquor are prosecuted. It was urged that it was necessary that persons who are found drunk should also be made liable for prosecution. The Minister assured them that amendments to that effect, in the Bill, would be put through as early as possible.

It was also suggested that the landowner must be made liable for any prohibition offence committed on his land. The Minister pointed out that one has to move cautiously in this matter, as there was a possibility of prosecuting innocent persons. As the law stands at present, there is a liability on the owner to give information to the authorities, and the Minister thought it would meet the situation if this liability could be strictly enforced.

He also promised to consider bringing an amendment to the Act, so as to vest the Magistrates with powers of summary trial.

The Minister emphasised the necessity of the village officers and organizations co-operating with the Prohibition work. The formation of District Advisory Councils would be an effective means of doing propaganda. It would be desirable to have this Prohibition Committee as a separate and distinct body and not as an appendage to the Food Committee.

The idea of levying collective fines on villages where large-scale illicit distillation is going on did not find favour with the Minister.

The Minister also spoke in highly appreciative terms of the ameliorative work done by the Grama Sanghams. The Sanghams at Sholingar and Sumaithangi were particularly commended by him.

To provide employment for ex-toddy tappers and ex-addicts, co-operative societies have been started in several places. Palmyra jaggery manufacture, milk supply, carpet making, are some of the activities of these societies. The Minister promised to consider favourably the request that a special officer of the co-operative department should be deputed to manage these societies.

Health of Cattle

Report for February 1947

There was a fall in the incidence of and mortality from contagious diseases among animals in the Province during the month of February 1947, as compared to January 1947. The total number of outbreaks reported and deaths recorded were 288 and 1,647 respectively as against 384 and 1,873 in the previous month.

Rinderpest.—There was a slight rise in the incidence of and mortality from this disease during the month as compared to the previous month, the figures being 51 outbreaks and 720 deaths as against 45 outbreaks and 366 deaths in the previous month. The disease was comparatively severe in Nellore district.

Hæmorrhagic Septicæmia.—There was a considerable fall in the incidence of and mortality from this desease during the month as compared to January 1947, the figure being 71 outbreaks and 383 deaths as against 122 outbreaks and 777 deaths in the previous month. The disease was comparatively severe in districts of Tanjore and Chingleput.

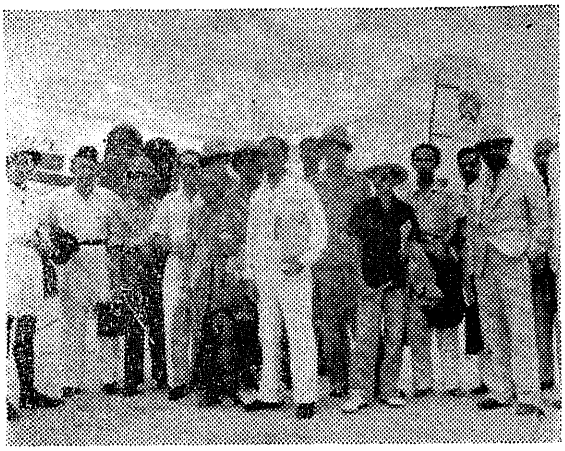
Black Quarter.—There was a fall in the incidence of and mortality from this disease during the month as compared to the previous month, the figures being 94 outbreaks and 405 deaths as against 127 outbreaks and 465 deaths in the previous month. The disease was comparatively severe in the districts of Chittoor, North Arcot, Coimbatore and Tinnevelly.

Anthrax.—There were 11 outbreaks and 130 deaths during the month as against 11 outbreaks and 111 deaths in the previous month.

Foot and Mouth.—Sixty-one outbreaks with nine deaths were reported during the month as against 79 outbreaks with 154 deaths in the previous month.

Indonesian Delegation's Visit to Madras

Memorandum Submitted on Food Situation



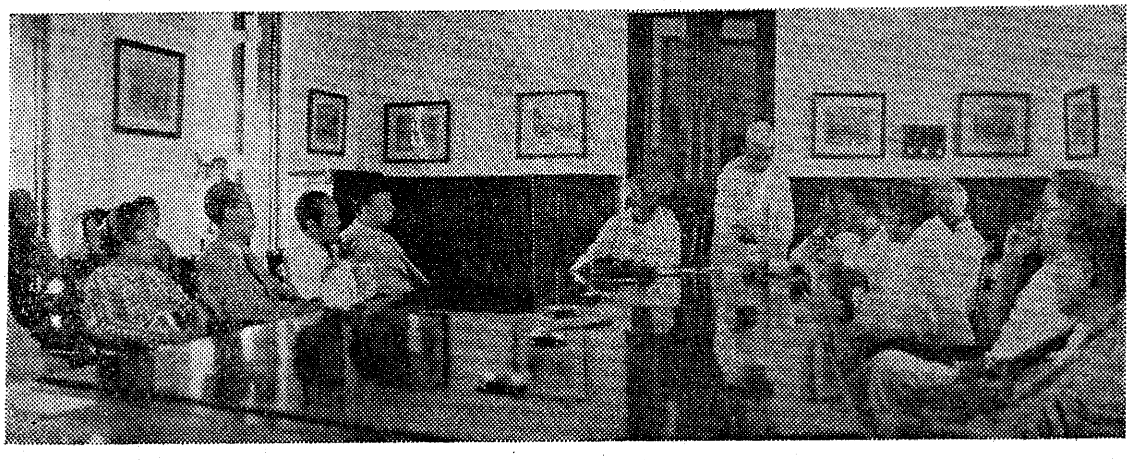
The Indonesian delegation arrives at the aerodrome

The following memorandum on the food situation in the Province has been presented by the Government of Madras to the Indonesian Delegation, who are on a visit to Madras :—

1. The normal production of rice and millets in the Province of Madras is estimated to be 4·9 million tons of rice and 2·8 million tons of millets. Before the war, Madras used to import on an average 451,000 tons of rice and 9,600 tons of millets every year and in addition about a quarter million tons of pulses and 66,000 tons of wheat and wheat products also. Most of the rice imports used to come from *Burma and Siam.* Owing to the war, these imports ceased in 1942, and were only resumed on a quite inadequate scale from the end of 1945 onwards.

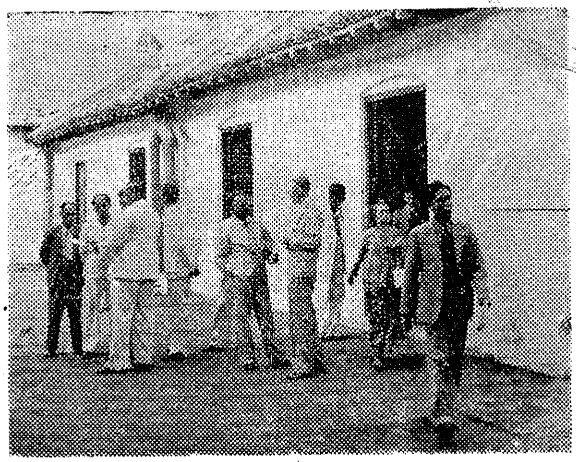
2. The season of 1945–46 was a disastrous one for this Province, the final estimate of rice production for the kharif year, i.e., from 1st November 1945 to 31st October 1946 being as low as 3,827,000 tons and that of millets being only 1,942,000 tons. The causes for this enormous decline in production were the very inadequate rainfall in the central and southern portions of the Province and the cyclonic storm which ravaged the rice-growing areas in the Kistna and Godavari deltas in October 1945. At the beginning of the calendar year 1946, therefore, the Province was faced with a deficit of 1,135,000 tons of rice and 948,000 tons of millets. The danger, however, was faced and overcome during 1946 by extension of intensive procurement and rationing throughout the Province and by the supply of imports of rice, wheat, wheat products, millets and maize to the extent of 565,042 tons. This figure includes *14,177 tons* of Indonesian paddy in terms of rice.

3. Though the Province weathered the storm in 1946, it faces the lean months of 1947 with inadequate stocks of grains. The production in 1946–47 is estimated to be 4,827,000 tons of rice and 2,338,000 tons of millets. As far as rice is

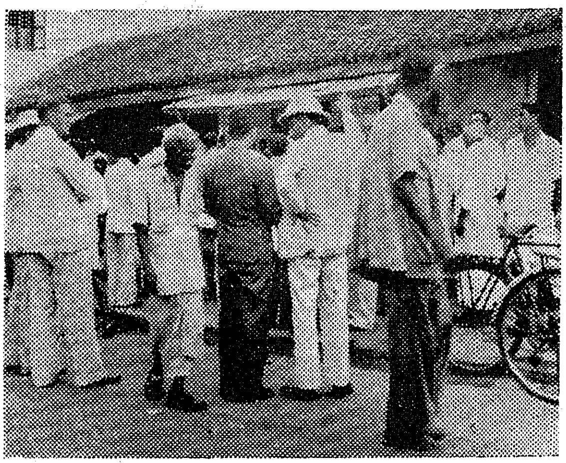


The delegation was given an at home *at the Secretariat*

10 MAY 1947



Visit to the A.C.G. godown



Inspecting a ration shop

concerned, the figure is nearly normal, but in the case of millets it is far below the average.

4. The actual situation with which the Province is now confronted is this. To maintain the system of rationing in the Province and to supply the needs of all the non-producers from now until the end of October 1947 we require 1,272,000 tons of rice, 114,800 tons of millets and 69,100 tons of wheat and wheat products. The targets for procurement of rice and millets for the whole kharif year 1946–47 are 1,730,700 tons of rice and 190,100 tons of millets. Out of these targets, up to the end of March, 657,014 tons of rice and 28,728 tons of millets have been already procured. Even if it is assumed that 90 per cent of the balance of the target, i.e., 966,317 tons of rice and 142,272 tons of millets will be procured between April and October this year, there will still be a shortage of 413,732 tons of all grains, the shortage in rice alone being as much as 372,014 tons. Against this deficit, the Province is still due to receive only 89,067 tons out of the 174,800 tons of rice promised by the Government of India for the whole kharif year and it is not likely that even this exiguous quantity will be received in full. The balance of the rice requirements, viz., 282,947 *tons can only be obtained from imports* and these figures show the imperative necessity to obtain a regular and steady flow of imports of rice during the next seven months.

Procurement and Rationing

5. The Madras system of procurement is the most comprehensive and far-reaching to be found in India. It is based on assessment of thpe roduction of each individual cultivator whose surplus is bought up by Government after his requirements for home consumption are satisfied and payments of wages in kind, etc., are allowed for. This system ensures so far as is possible that every grain which is surplus with the cultivators is bought up at controlled prices and issued through the ration shops. The rationing system is equally elaborate. It is estimated that out of the total population of 42·82 millions in terms of adults in the Province, 33·5 millions in terms of adults is the effective number that comes under the rationing scheme, the remainder being producers who grow enough foodgrains to maintain themselves throughout the year without recourse to ration shops. By means of this rationing system, the available resources are distributed fairly throughout the Province and if, owing to shortage of supply, the ration has to be cut, the sacrifice is borne alike by all classes of consumers. The rationed population of this Province have cheerfully borne the successive ration cuts imposed in 1946, when the total cereal ration was cut from 16 oz. to 12 oz. at the beginning of the year and later the rice content of the ration had to be reduced successively to 10 and later to 8 oz. Throughout the dark year of 1946, the rationing system was maintained successfully and it is hoped that this will be the case in 1947 also. But the present situation is not without peril, and without large imports drastic cuts in the ration to a level below that of subsistence **leading** even to breakdown in rationing in some of the more heavily deficit areas may occur within four months.

Summary

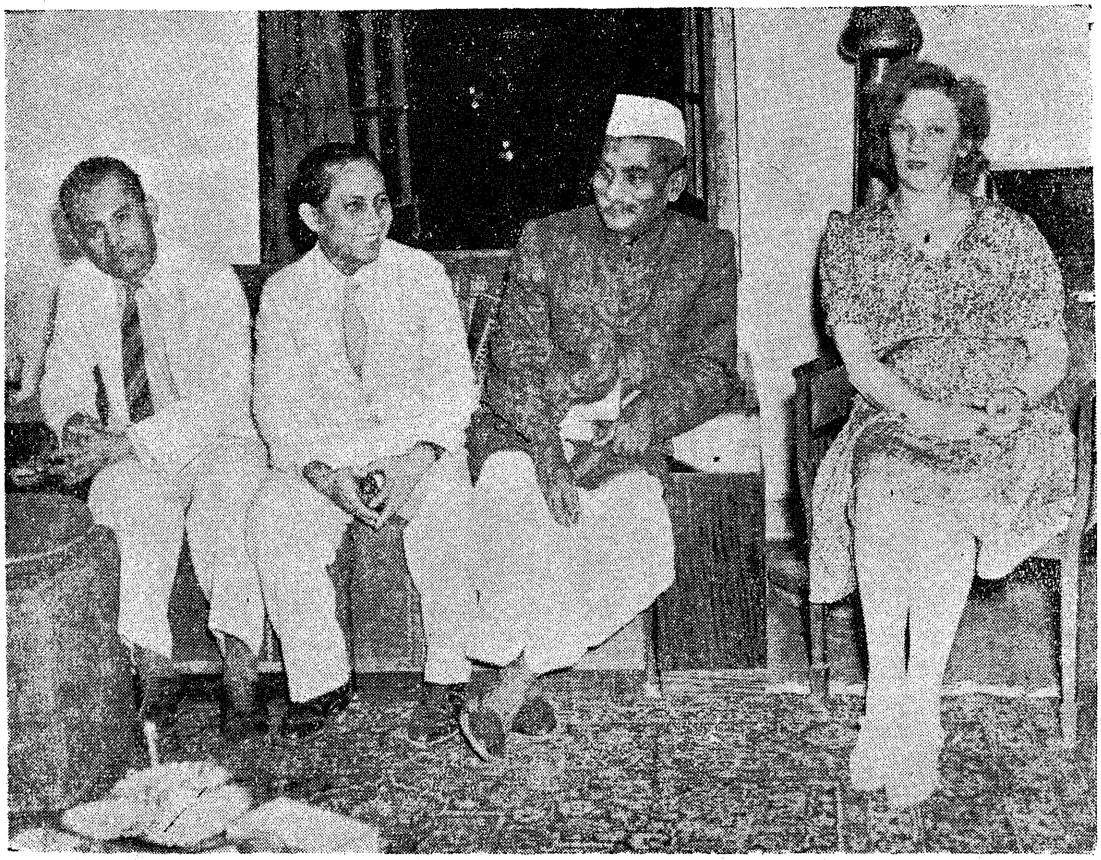
	TONS.
I. *Average import per year—*	
Rice	* 451,000
Millets	9,600
Pulses	25,000
Wheat and wheat products	66,000

* Rice used to come from Burma and Siam.

II. *Imports of rice, wheat and wheat products, millets and maize during* 1946. * 565,042

* This figure includes 14,177 tons of Indonesian paddy in terms of rice.

	TONS.
III. *Quantity required to maintain the system of rationing in the Province (until the end of October* 1947)—	
Rice	1,272,000
Millets	114,800
Wheat and wheat products	69,100
IV. *Target for procurement in the Province during the year ending October* 1947—	
Rice	1,730,700
Millets	190,100
V. *Anticipated procurement from* 1*st April to* 31*st October* 1947—	
Rice	899,986
Millets	142,272
VI. *There is a shortage (till October* 1947) *of all grains*	413,732
Rice alone	372,014
Imperative necessity—	
The balance of rice requirements to be obtained from imports ..	282,947



Dr. Sutan Sharir, Indonesian Premier, and Mrs. Sharir in pleasant conversation with the Hon'ble Dr. Rajendraprasad, Food Minister, Government of India.

16 MAY 1947

Subsidised Cattle-feed and Interim Relief to Milkmen

Cattle-feed Advisory Committee's Views

The Committee constituted in G.O. Ms. No. 403, dated the 8th April 1947, to put forward concrete proposals for the Government procurement and distribution of cattle-feed in the City of Madras held its first meeting on 10th April 1947 at 11–30 a.m. Diwan Bahadur Sri V. Bashyam Iyengar was in the chair. The following members were present :—

(1) Diwan Bahadur Sri C. Tadulingam Mudaliyar, President, Madras Co-operative Milk-Supply Union, Ayyanavaram, (2) Mr. K. O. Anthoni, M.L.C., Vepery, Madras, (3) Sri T. S. Ramanujam, President, The Madras Milkmen's Union, (4) Sri Thangavelu Mudaliyar, Secretary, The Madras Milkmen's Union, (5) Sri K. Govinda Wariar, Secretary, Triplicane Urban Co-operative Society, Triplicane, Madras, (6) The Secretary to Government, Development Department, (7) The Additional Joint Registrar of Co-operative Societies, (8) The Livestock Development Officer, Veterinary Department and (9) The Deputy Secretary to Government, Food Department.

The Committee thought that before any useful work could be done by it, it should have some reasonably correct estimate of the number of cattle in the City. Sri Ramanujam gave it as his estimate that there were about 100,000 animals in the City including both dry animals and animals in milk. This was generally considered to be an over-estimate. The Additional Joint Registrar of Co-operative Societies, who had gone into this question in great detail and submitted a report to the Government in 1944, thought that the total number of animals in the City was not likely to exceed 17,000 or 18,000. In view of these conflicting estimates Sri Tadulingam Mudaliyar suggested that a census should be taken immediately of the number of animals in the City. The Corporation agency could be used to take the census and if the Sanitary Inspectors in each division were asked to take up this work they would got the figures very quickly.

Interim Relief

The discussion then proceeded on the assumption that the number of animals in the City, both dry and in milk, might be taken to be about 50,000. The Chairman expressed the view that the Committee's deliberations would necessarily take some time and it would be at least two to three months before the Committee could submit considered proposals to the Government. Thereupon it was suggested that some immediate relief should be given to the milkmen pending the decision of the Government on the question of procurement and distribution of cattle-feed on Government account.

It was also generally conceded that the cattle-feed prices had increased out of proportion to the increase in the prices of milk. Generally speaking, cattle-feed prices had increased roughly 400 per cent over the 1939 prices whereas the increase in the price of milk had been only less than 300 per cent. Owing to the non-availability of the correct varieties of cattle-feed the yield of milk per animal had also definitely gone down. In view of these two factors the Committee agreed that some immediate relief should be given to the milkmen.

The question as to the form in which this relief should be given was considered next. One suggestion that was made was to the effect that a subsidy might be given on the quantity of milk produced by each animal in milk. This was considered impracticable as it would give an inducement to milkmen to do wholesale dilution of milk by water and it would also be very difficult to keep reliable records of the amount of milk produced each day by every animal. It was therefore accepted by the Committee that the only practicable way in which such interim relief could be given would be a subsidy at so much per head of cattle in respect of all animals kept by milkmen who produced milk for purposes of sale. This would exclude all cattle owners who produced mainly for their own consumption.

The Committee was unanimously of the opinion that a subsidy on these lines should be given to the milkmen with immediate effect. With regard to the amount of subsidy it was considered that a reasonable subsidy would be 25 per cent of the cost of concentrates required to feed each animal under normal conditions. On this basis Sri C. R. Srinivasan, one of the members of the Co-operative Milk-Supply Union, who was present at the meeting by special leave of the President, said that it would cost Rs. 2–8–0 per day to feed an animal in milk inclusive of the cost of straw,

and that without straw the cost would be about Rs. 2 per animal per day and such an animal would yield about 18 to 20 pounds or 4½ to 5 Madras measures of milk per day. At the rate of Rs. 2 per day for concentrates the monthly feeding charges would amount to Rs. 60, one-fourth of which would be Rs. 15. The Committee was therefore of the unanimous opinion that a subsidy of Rs. 15 per animal per month would be reasonable. A subsidy at this rate may be given for animals in milk owned by milkmen producing milk for sale and a subsidy at half this rate could be given for other animals which were not incapable of further lactation. It was considered that the interim relief can be given to the animals on the basis of figures of the milkmen and the animals obtained from the Corporation from which a licence had to be taken for keeping cattle. The Committee also recommended that animals belonging to members of the feeder societies in Chingleput district who supplied milk to the Madras Co-operative Milk-Supply Union for consumption in the City and also animals belonging to others who, though not members of the Milk-Supply Union, produced milk exclusively for supply in the City of Madras, should also be made eligible for this subsidy. The authority disbursing the subsidy would have the discretion to decide whether particular animals were entitled to get the subsidy or not.

It was generally conceded that this interim relief should be replaced at the earliest possible date by the subsidised distribution of cattle-feed, to ensure that the subsidy was really appropriated to the purpose for which it was intended. The Committee therefore appointed a sub-committee consisting of the Additional Joint Registrar of Co-operative Societies, the Livestock Development Officer, Sri Thangavelu Mudaliar and Sri C. R. Srinivasan to prepare an estimate of the monthly requirements of the City in respect of each item of cattle-feed in regard to which Government procurement and distribution were considered necessary and feasible.

Sub-Committee's Report

The Cattle-feed Advisory Committee held its second meeting on 17th April 1947 at 11-30 a.m. All the members present at the first meeting were present, as also the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. A statement prepared by Sri Ramanujam detailing the difficulties of the milkmen and the cost of maintaining milch animals in the City, as also the report of the sub-committee appointed at the previous meeting were read out before the Committee and it was agreed that copies of these statements should be prepared and distributed to the members and that further discussion could usefully be taken up the next day.

Government Procurement Recommended

The Committee met again on 18th April 1947 at 3-30 p.m. to discuss Sri Ramanujam's statement and the sub-committee's report. In addition to the regular members present on special invitation was also Sri Doraikannu, Assistant Secretary of the Madras Milkmen's Union, Sri Ramanujam mentioned at the outset that the Committee was not tied down to make recommendations only in regard to the procurement and distribution of specified items of cattle-feed on Government account: when he interviewed the Hon'ble Minister for Food just before this Committee was constituted, the Hon'ble Minister had given an assurance that the Committee could go into the whole question of production of milk in Madras City and its recommendations might cover the whole field of Government assistance required by the milkmen.

Sri Tadulingam Mudaliar then referred to the sub-committee's report in which it had been suggested that dhall husk and dhall brokens (noi) might be left to the trade and said that these were important items of bulk food for animals and should therefore be procured and distributed on Government account. It was also suggested that even according to the sub-committee's report, the price has come down to only Rs. 6-4-0 per bag, which was 4 times the pre-war level and that it was therefore necessary, to attempt to reduce husk prices and make them available at nearer Rs. 5 per bag.

At this stage Sri Ramanujam made it quite clear that his Union did not want any cash subsidy except as interim relief and that the milkmen only wanted that cattle-feed should be made available to them at reasonable prices. Sri Thangavelu read out extracts from a speech said to have been made by the previous Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture at the opening of some milk conference in Coimbatore, about nine months earlier, and pointed out that the promises made by him had not been fulfilled by the Ministry.

It was decided that subsidised distribution of cattle-food should be confined to concentrates. With regard to straw, attempts should be made to obtain hay presses which would press the hay into bundles of convenient sizes for transport from the surplus areas to the City. Meanwhile the Government might help by allowing milkmen in the City to import straw from districts where prices were reasonable and if any permit

was necessary from the Collector of the district, the Government should see that import permits were given for bona fide users. Similarly Government should obtain rail priority for transport of straw from surplus districts to the City.

The Registrar of Co-operative Societies referred in this connexion to the Regional Food Commissioner's promise of assistance in regard to Army surplus items of food which had grown old and were not fit for human consumption but which were still valuable as cattle-feed. The Registrar also thought that veterinary assistance should be made available free of cost to the milkmen in the City for a period of three years at least. Mr. C. R. Srinivasan referred to the difficulty felt in regard to breeding bulls and said that more breeding bulls should be provided.

Complaints against Sales Tax

Mr. C. R. Srinivasan next referred to the difficulty experienced by milkmen who supplied milk to the Co-operative Milk Supply Union on account of the imposition of sales tax on the milk sold by them to the Union and wanted that this should be taken up with the concerned department of the Government and sales tax cancelled. The Committee agreed that sales tax should not be imposed on sales of milk by primary producers.

33-1/3 per cent Subsidy Demanded

The sub-committee's report was then taken up for consideration. Mr. Ramanujam, Mr. Thangavelu and Mr. C. R. Srinivasan said that the stand taken by the two non-official members at the sub-committee had been misunderstood. What they had said was that the prices suggested as fair prices for gingelly cake and wheat bran should be fixed by Government as the maximum prices and a subsidy to the extent considered desirable by the Committee should be given to the milkmen, to make it available at substantially lower price. Mr. Ramanujam referred in this connexion to a scheme which was got ready during the Advisers' regime, following the visit of the Dairy Development Adviser to the Government of India, which provided for Government procurement and distribution of essential items of cattle-feed at prices which were 25 per cent below the market price, the difference to be met by a subsidy to be shared equally by the Provincial Government and the Central Government and said that although the Adviser's regime had promised to put the scheme into execution, it had been shelved. The Union would therefore be right in insisting that any scheme of relief for the milkmen should be given retrospective effect from 1944. As this was not possible and as cattle-feed prices had gone even higher since 1944, while the increase in the price of milk had been comparatively on a smaller scale, a higher percentage of subsidy than the 25 per cent considered sufficient in 1944 should be given. The Committee discussed the question at length and concluded that a subsidy of 33⅓ per cent on the items of cattle-feed required by the milkmen, viz., gingelly cake, wheat bran, dhall husk and dhall brokens should be given by the Government. The Committee recommended that these four items of cattle-feed should accordingly be obtained at the best possible market price by the Government and distributed to the milkmen at 33⅓ per cent less than the cost price, the difference being met by Government subsidy.

Fixation of Milk Price

The question was then considered whether in view of the subsidy that was being given some attempt should be made to provide for the maximum price at which milk should be sold in the City by the milkmen. In this connexion it was noted that the sub-committee had recommended that milkmen who did not sell milk at the prices fixed by the Government should be refused subsidised rations. It was however the opinion of most of the members present that the question of milk prices might be left to the good sense of the milkmen and the law of supply and demand and that the Government would be ill-advised to interfere in regard to the fixation of milk prices.

The Committee also considered that special arrangements should be made to give some limited quantities of cumbu to animals immediately after calving and green-gram for about three months after calving.

The Committee also considered that Government should obtain priority for movement of cattle to the City from the breeding centres and also for the movement of dry animals to areas outside the City where such animals could be fed at reasonable expenditure.

The Committee also considered that Government should take up the question of cattle insurance very urgently and devise ways and means to protect milkmen from utter financial ruin on account of sudden death of a good-yielding animal.

The Committee thought that, in view of the high prices of cattle, Government should provide loans free of interest or at a very low rate of interest to enable milkmen to buy fresh stock. It also recommended that the question of prosecutions by the Sanitary staff of the Corporation and by

the police should be gone into and Government should see that such harassment was reduced to the minimum and confined to really glaring cases of insanitary conditions.

With regard to the interim relief recommended at the first meeting of the Committee, it was considered that such relief might be granted from the date of appointment of the Committee for a period of not more than two months during which time arrangements should be made for making available the concentrates already specified at subsidised prices.

Permanent Milk Board

The Committee also recommended that the Government should constitute a permanent whole-time Milk Board as early as possible to be in constant touch with the problems of production, distribution and price of milk and cattle-feed over the whole presidency and to take such steps as may be necessary to improve the production of milk both in regard to quality and quantity. The Committee considered that the institution of such a Board should be given high priority and taken up very urgently.

Cattle-feed Depots in Madras City

One of the reasons for the present shortage of milk in the Madras City is the difficulty in getting adequate quantities of cattle-feed at economic rates. The Madras Co-operative Milk Supply Union, which is the major supplier of milk to the City, and other milkmen organizations have been feeling for some time past that immediate steps are necessary to make cattle-feed available to the milkmen at reasonable prices. The important items of cattle-feed generally in use are gingelly oil cake, wheat bran and husks. Government have been considering the question of supplying these feeds to the persons engaged in the milk trade at reasonable rates. Pending the formulation of measures by Government with a view to relieve cattle-feed position in the City, the Madras Co-operative Milk Supply Union has, at the instance of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, taken up the distribution of cattle-feed on a much larger scale than in the past. The Registrar has suggested to the Union to obtain the important items of cattle-feed such as oilcake and husks from the wholesale dealers and to distribute them to the milkmen in the Madras City. The Madras Co-operative Milk Supply Union has gladly taken up this work and is getting oilcake at wholesale prices from Messrs. Ralli Brothers and husks from the wholesalers in the Madras City. At the instance of Government, the Collector of Madras allotted to the Madras Co-operative Milk Supply Union 450 bags of husks and chunai during March 1947 and the latter arranged for their distribution through its cattle-feed depots in the City. The Union has recently opened four cattle-feed depots in addition to the one it had at Ayyanavaram. The five depots are located at Ayyanavaram, Basin Bridge, Choolai, Triplicane and Kosapet. Cattle-feed is sold at these depots to members and non-members alike, at cost price charging a small commission to meet overhead charges. The sales at the depots are increasing and the weekly sales at present exceed Rs. 10,000. Government have appointed a Committee recently to make concrete proposals in regard to the procurement and distribution of cattle feed to the milkmen in the Madras City on Government account. The Madras Co-operative Milk Supply Union will be able to play an important role in the scheme for the distribution of cattle-feed in the City that may be set up as a result of the Committee's recommendations.

Government Departments at Work

Education

Salient Features for April 1947

General.—The Government have constituted a Board for further education of demobilized personnel with the Director of Public Instruction as Chairman, Personal Assistant to the Director of Public Instruction as Secretary of the Board and the Principal, Medical College, the Principal, Veterinary College, the Director of Agriculture and the Deputy Director of Resettlement as members of the Board.

Elementary Education.—The Government have ordered the discontinuance with effect from 1st April 1947 of the supply of mid-day meals to school-children in the rural areas in which the scheme of compulsory elementary education was introduced with effect from 1945–46.

Work of the Official Trustee Explained

History

The office of the Official Trustee in India was created more than a century ago by Act XII of 1843 when such an office had not even been thought of in England. It can, therefore, be claimed that it is India which led the way in the creation of an office of this nature. The Public Trustee's Act was passed in England only in 1906 and it came into operation in 1908.

The Act of 1843 empowered the Supreme Court to appoint the Registrar or other Officer of the Court as Official Trustee. The next piece of Legislation on this matter is Act VIII of 1855 which provided that the Administrator-General might be appointed Official Trustee. By Act VII of 1854 the Chief Justice of the High Court was authorized to appoint the Officer, but by Act II of 1890 the power of appointment was taken over by the Government. Act V of 1902 not only provided for the appointment of a Deputy but also for the remuneration of the Official Trustee by a fixed salary. As several changes in the law relating to the Official Trustee had taken place since 1854 and amendments in various respects were considered necessary, the consolidating and amending Act II of 1913 was promulgated and it is under this Act that the Official Trustee of Madras is now functioning.

Jurisdiction

The Administrator-General of Madras is also the Official Trustee. His jurisdiction in relation to British Subjects includes not only the entire Province of Madras but also the States within the political charge of the Resident for Madras States and the Residents in Mysore, and at Hyderabad and the Chief Commissioner of Coorg.

Objects

The office was constituted with the express object of affording a safe and efficient agency for the administration of Trusts and for the protection of the public against the risks and inconveniences incidental to the employment of private individuals as Trustees. Quite apart from the difficulty in inducing private persons to undertake the troublesome and onerous duties of Executors and Trustees, there is also the lack of knowledge on the part of private persons, which prevents them from discharging their duties efficiently. Owing to incompetence, negligence, etc., on the part of private Executors and Trustees, considerable loss of Trust properties results, accompanied in not a few cases by very real distress and protracted litigations.

Various Capacities of Official Trustee

The Official Trustee may be appointed either as original Trustee or as a new Trustee. He may be appointed as original Trustee of a marriage settlement or a family settlement or as Trustee for debenture-holders of a limited liability company. He may also be appointed Trustee in respect of Trusts for charitable or religious purposes provided he is not made liable to see to the proper performance or carrying out of the objects of religious or charitable institutions.

The Official Trustee may be appointed a Trustee under a Will without having been appointed Executor thereof. In this case, the Executor or Administrator after notifying the contents of the will may transfer to the Official Trustee the properties subject to the Trust.

The Official Trustee may be appointed Trustee in the place of private Trustees. Private Trustees or the surviving or continuing Trustee or Trustees as well as all the persons beneficially interested in the Trust may appoint the Official Trustee as Trustee in the place of the original Trustee or Trustees.

In the same way the Executor or Administrator of the estate of a deceased person may transfer to the Official Trustee any share of the assets which devolves on a minor or a lunatic to be held by him upon Trusts for the minor or the lunatic as the case may be. Section 27 of the Administrator-General's Act contains a similar provision under which the Administrator-General is empowered to transfer to the Official Trustee the assets of an estate remaining in his hands after the completion of the administration thereof.

The provisions mentioned above have proved to be of great utility to private executors or administrators who are desirous of winding up the estates in their hands and closing their accounts without having to retain in their hands funds belonging to a Trust estate for possibly a considerable time.

In all the above cases the Official Trustee should be appointed sole Trustee and the transfers to the Official Trustee must be evidenced by deeds which should be executed both by the transferors and by the Official Trustee. The consent of the Official Trustee must be recited in the deeds.

The Official Trustee may be appointed as Executor of a Will only if he is appointed sole

Executor and also appointed Trustee, but not otherwise.

Under section 10 of the Official Trustees Act, the High Court may appoint the Official Trustee of property subject to a trust in cases where disputes have arisen between trustees or between trustees and beneficiaries and the Court is of opinion that the trust funds should be administered by the Official Trustee. The Official Trustee can also be appointed Trustee by the High Court under the following Acts :—

(1) The Indian Trustees Act XXVII of 1866 (Section 35).

(2) The Trustees' and Mortgagees' Powers Act XXVIII of 1866 (Section 34).

(3) The Indian Trusts Act II of 1882 (Sections 73 and 74).

The Official Trustee can also be appointed guardian of the properties of minors under Guardian and Wards Act VIII of 1890 and the manager of the properties of a lunatic under the Indian Lunacy Act IV of 1912 by the High Court.

Apart from the provisions of law mentioned above, Section 6 of the Married Womens' Property Act, empowers Insurance Companies to pay the moneys due under policies of life insurance taken out for the benefit of an assured's wife and/or family to the Official Trustee, if no trustee is appointed to receive the moneys due under the policies to be held in trust by the Official Trustee.

Powers and Duties

The Official Trustee generally has the same powers, duties and liabilities and is subject to the same controls and orders of the Court as any other Trustee acting in the same capacity. He can decline any Trust, but not on the ground only of the small value of the property. He is debarred from accepting any Trust which is known or believed by him to be insolvent or which involves the management or carrying on of any business, or any Trust under a deed of arrangement for the benefit of creditors or any Trust which involves the exercise, supervision or control by him as trustee of any religious observance or ceremony or the decision of any questions as to the religious merit or character of any individual or institution. Where the Official Trustee is appointed he must be appointed the sole Trustee.

The Official Trustee is authorised to retain and pay out of Trust Property any expenses which he might retain or pay if he were a private Trustee for the proper care and management of property belonging to any Trust administered by him. In addition he can also with the sanction of the High Court incur expenditure on such religious, charitable and other objects and on such improvements as may be reasonable and proper in the case of such property.

Advantages of Official Trustee

While the disadvantages of having private Trustees are numerous the advantages of appointing the Official Trustee are many. The office of the Official Trustee is continous and has a perpetual existence. Thus although the individuals holding the office of the Official Trustee may be absent from India, become incapacitated, resign or die, the office of the Official Trustee will be continuously carried on without interruption in the performance of its duties. The public are thus saved the trouble and expense of appointing fresh Trustees since it will never be necessary to transfer a Trust accepted by the Official Trustee to any other private Trustee, as in the case of private trustees when they become incapacitated, desire to retire or die.

The responsibility and integrity of the Official Trustee is guaranteed by the Government. The Official Trustee possesses rights and privileges not enjoyed by a private trustee. He is not required to enter into any bond or security or file affidavits or accounts. There is a consequent saving of expense to an Estate or Trust in his charge. These privileges are intended to provide simplicity, cheapness and rapidity of administration in cases taken over by the Official Trustee. Many details of administration in respect of which a private trustee is liable to incur professional expense will be carried out through the Official Trustee's office as a matter of routine.

The charges payable to the Official Trustee will be generally 2 per cent on the capital value of the property transferred to him up to one lakh and on estates of over a lakh the charges will be much lower. The commission on the capital value of the Trust is chargeable only once. Besides the above fees, commission at 5 per cent on the income is charged as and when actually realized. In exceptionally simple administrations of Trust Government may remit the whole or any part of fees and if the income of any Trust is not liable to serious fluctuations Government may fix a fixed half-yearly fee in respect of the collection of income. No additional charges are made for such services as obtaining probate and the preparation of income-tax returns for which private trustees have to employ lawyers and accountants. Considering the responsible nature of work done by the Official Trustee the charges paid are very moderate. The accounts of the Official Trustee are accurately

kept and regularly audited by Government officials. Any person entitled to trust moneys may inspect the accounts and obtain on payment of the prescribed fee certified copies of such accounts.

In the absence of any directions in the deed or other declaration of trust, moneys in the hands of the Official Trustee are invested in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Trusts Act except on mortgages of immovable properties which he can do only with the sanction of the High Court.

All the Government and other securities and jewels and valuable belonging to a Trust are lodged by the Official Trustee for safe custody in a Bank or other safe place approved by Government.

Subject to such information as may be given to the proper parties, the Official Trustee and his staff will observe absolute secrecy in respect of all trusts accepted and administered by him.

Where the Trust provided for periodical payments these are regularly and punctually paid to the persons entitled. If any question of difficulty arises in connection with the management of a Trust, the Official Trustee is guided by the orders of the High Court, Madras.

The Official Trustee endeavours to administer estates entrusted to his charge efficiently and prudently. In the administration of Trusts in favour of minors and persons of unsound mind the Official Trustee will have regard to the wishes of the beneficiaries and relations unless he considers such a course would be prejudicial to the due administration of the Trusts. Close and individual attention is paid to the special problems and difficulties of each Trust. The activities of the department are directed with a view to inspiring confidence in its administration.

Work done so far

The extent and nature of the work done by the Official Trustee can be judged from the following statistics :—

1. Number of Trusts on hand at the end of 1945—615.

	RS.	A.	P.
2. Value of the Trust properties vested in the Official Trustee.	2,41,49,238	0	0
3. Receipts from the Trust properties during 1945—			
Government Securities.	80,04,700	0	0
Other Securities ..	12,58,690	0	0
Cash	24,35,646	1	11
Payments—			
Government Securities.	54,36,400	0	0
Other Securities ..	5,15,000	0	0
Cash	23,52,614	6	0
4. Average annual receipts and payments during ten years from 1935 to 1944—			
Receipts—			
Government Securities.	12,79,667	0	0
Other Scurities ..	4,67,348	0	0
Cash	11,52,104	0	0
Payments—			
Government Securities.	6,56,642	0	0
Other Securities ..	4,87,252	0	0
Cash	11,62,583	0	0

5. Categories of Trust according to subject matter—

(1) Settlements	170
(2) Transfers from executors, trustees, etc.	32
(3) Executor and Trusteeships ..	20
(4) Trusteeships under Indian Trust Act.	129
(5) Guardianships under G.W. Act.	204
(6) Managerships under Lunacy Act.	11
(7) Trusts under M.W.P. Act ..	46
(8) Miscellaneous	3
	615

6. Categories of Trusts now under administration according to value—

(1) Below Rs. 1,000 ..	317
(2) Above Rs. 1,000 and below Rs. 2,000.	61
(3) Above Rs. 2,000 and below Rs. 5,000.	52
(4) Above Rs. 5,000 and below Rs. 10,000.	67
(5) Above Rs. 10,000 and below Rs. 20,000.	41
(6) Above Rs. 20,000 and below Rs. 50,000.	36
(7) Over Rs. 50,000	41
	615

Rationing in Madras City

It was at the time of the Bengal Famine that the Government of Madras decided to introduce rationing in the City of Madras. The A.R.P. Staff were employed for enumerating households for writing ration cards and for distributing them. The work was not easy. There are 310,537 households covering an area of nearly 40 square miles. The work was new and, often at least in the beginning, we had to deal with hostile or suspicious people. Nevertheless, the work was pushed through with commendable speed and accuracy, and rationing was introduced in September 1943.

The Madras City was the first place to come under rationing in South India.

When it came, what a contrast it presented to the days that had gone by. In those uncertain days before rationing, large crowds used to flock at the grain shops. Invariably there used to be a scramble, because no one was sure whether he would get grain. Always the scenes were unseemly. Often they ended in blows. Between that picture and the present day, there is a vast difference. For rationing brought an assurance of supply and dispelled men's fears. Though people have to queue up even now, they are in no danger of missing their quota.

It would be interesting to recall details of the Scheme as it worked in the beginning. Rationing started with a one pound ration which was also the standard set up by the Foodgrains Policy Committee. Rice alone was rationed. Children below two years were not (as also now) given any ration. Children between 2 and 12 were given half the adult ration. Two kinds of ration cards were used, one a daily card on which ration could be drawn daily, chiefly to suit the convenience of poor people, and the other a weekly card on which ration could be drawn once or twice a week. In a few cases there was provision to issue supplementary ration of half a pound per worker per day. There was of course provision for the issue of rations to visitors to the City, who were likely to stay for more than a week.

Rationing in the City was pioneer work in that direction as far as this province was concerned. Yet it is gratifying to note that the per capita expenditure was only 6 pies per mensem in the first year of rationing. This is nothing compared to the vast loss in human lives and property suffered in other provinces owing to the absence of any machinery to control and regulate food supplies.

The scheme was constantly being modified with a view to enhance its usefulness to the public. We soon devised a ration card on which ration could be drawn either daily or weekly or for any number of days within the week.

While we were thus adjusting and improving the scheme, there came the testing time, the food scarcity of 1946. Failure of crops in several parts of the province and in the country owing to floods or cyclone led to a deterioration of the food position. The scale of ration was immediately reduced to 12 oz. The rice content was progressively reduced to 10 oz. and again for a short while to 8 oz. Even landholders who had produce of their own were allowed only this much. All millets and wheat and wheat products including bread were now brought within the rationing scheme. Several austerity measures were launched such as restriction on the number of persons to be fed at parties, restriction on courses at meals, etc. Since the food shortage, rice has not been issued to non-meals hotels which get their requirements in other grains such as wheat, wheat flour, sooji, baker's bread or maize.

All these naturally hampered men's normal ways of feeding. The Madrassi who has been long accustomed to several rice dishes in hotels has no doubt had a hard time of it. Though the food position has lately shown signs of improvement, it has not improved to such an extent as to justify the relaxation of the austerity measures.

According to the 1941 census, the population of the City was 777,000. Rationing started with 887,645 persons excluding those in hotels, hostels, etc. But there appears to have been an enormous increase in population since then. At present 1,401,852 are drawing rations. Distribution is done through approximately 650 retaillers. The off-take in the month of February (four weeks) was: rice—9,912 tons, wheat and wheat products—862 tons, millets—215 tons.

In attempting to regulate, under the present abnormal conditions, so intimately personal a matter like food about which people have their particular likes and dislikes, it is difficult to satisfy all. Naturally criticisms are not wanting. It has been suggested, for instance, that all landholders should be allowed to import for personal consumption one year's requirements at the rate of 1 lb. irrespective of whether the land is in a surplus district or not or whether the landholder is an actual cultivator or not. The

rejection of the proposal was based on several sound reasons. First of all, the fundamental objective of rationing is that all should equally share the incidence of shortage of the rationed article. It will go against this basic principle if certain people are allowed to hoard for a whole year grains of their choice when others have to take what stuff they get from week to week. Exporting from deficit districts which depend upon outside imports results in double movement of foodgrains which aggravates the already acute transport problem. For most of the people the rice ration has so far been 10 oz. To have allowed the non-cultivating landholders 16 oz. of rice ration would have been a violation of the principle of rationing. After all, mere ownership of land was only a form of property and if property were to be taken as the basis in these matters, it would at once have ended in confusion and injustice.

A second complaint is that there is often delay in getting orders on the applications presented in the rationing offices in the City. The orders are that all applications should be disposed of within 24 hours of presentation. In a City like Madras where multitudes of people come and go, Rationing Officers have to be circumspect and the applications have necessarily to be investigated. If specific cases of delay are brought to the notice of the City Rationing Officer, suitable action will surely be taken.

Rationing has been a new experience and a new discipline. Considering this fact, one should say that it has worked most successfully. There have not been any wide-spread attempts at evading rules. There have been no sensational cases at all. Though much publicity and propaganda were done in the beginning, still its result would not have been achieved without the intelligent co-operation of the public. The people of Madras have to be complimented for this excellent result.

Towards Tackling Mal-nutrition

Food Consciousness

All Governments, all the world over have proclaimed it to be their aim to improve the moral, material and the physical welfare of the peoples inhabiting their zones of administration. Food plays an important role in the physical welfare of a nation. Very few Governments have however bestowed any serious attention in the past to the problem of food for the masses, excepting in times of acute emergency when there is actually a food famine due to flood, fire or water scarcity. Life is not possible without food and active life is not possible without a good balanced diet to sustain it. It may be that because people are so familiar with food that they ignore its importance and fail to deal with it systematically and sicentifically. If the general state of health of the masses in different parts of the world continues to be the same or is much worse in some areas than ever before, it is because proper attention to the requirements of the people in the matter of food has not been bestowed.

It may be strange but it is all the same true that Governments did not realise, until recently, what were the actual daily food requirements of a human being. Knowledge of food and nutrition is of comparatively recent origin, though it is probable that ancients of different countries might have grasped the fundamentals of the science of nutrition. The study of the science of nutrition requires steady, laborious, unspectacular and sometimes monotonous methods. Such study is based on collection of facts relating to the ways of life, as regards food of different human beings and a correlation of such facts with the state of health prevailing in those areas. No serious attempts appear to have been made in the past to find out the normal requirements of human beings at different ages of life, of different states of society and for different occupations. Again, no attempts appear to have been made to correlate the production of food with the requirements of man, the production of different kinds of food to the requirements of a balanced diet and the capacity of man to buy required quantities for a balanced diet. Such studies have been undertaken only very recently in some parts of the world; a few such studies, though at random, have been made in some parts of India. But no systematic study has been undertaken in this country to correlate resources and requirements and to find out how we can improve and how much we should increase the resources to meet requirements.

Intelligent Planning

There is definite and urgent need to grow more food everywhere. It is however desirable that the "Grow More Food" activities should be properly

planned, in order to see that there is no production of any particular food, much in excess of our requirements to the detriment of production of other foods which are also in short supply. Such a campaign should not end in a glut in any individual commodity. A planned agriculture and balanced diet should go together. In addition it should be known what kinds of food should be grown more urgently than others, how ill-health springs from a lack of some of these foodstuffs and how such ill-health can be prevented by a supply of more of the required foodstuffs to the population before it begins to feel the effects of lack of them. All these investigations should be undertaken for a proper appreciation of the relation of food to health and to avoid unnecessary sickness and suffering. If Administrations in different parts of the world had the vision and the wish to think beyond their times, food scarcity could be avoided in future. Food production and health are long-term matters and cannot be managed or manoeuvred within the space of a few years. They require deep thinking diligent planning and devoted application.

Mal-nutrition

It is well-known that in a poor country like India mal-nutrition is prevalent to a very large extent. The word mal-nutrition is an ill-understood and abused term. It does not mean the same thing all over the country. Mal-nutrition may be due to lack of food; it may be due to lack of proper food; it may also be caused by insufficiency of one or more of the food-factors or it may be the result of a combination of all the above. It results in diseases due to deficiency of protein or vitamins or minerals or some other food factor. Mal-nutrition is a general term to cover all conditions of illness arising from consumption of ill-balanced diets. It therefore follows that there may be different kinds of mal-nutrition in different parts of the country. It should be the endeavour of Governments to spot the different kinds of mal-nutrition existing in different localities under their control, what they are due to and how they can be prevented and controlled. Detailed information on this aspect of mal-nutrition is not available at present.

Food Survey

While effects of ill-balanced diets on health should also be studied, the more important and urgent task should be to assess the prevailing food habits of the people as compared with their optimum requirements. While we may visualise a general picture of mal-nutrition in the Presidency, it could not be assumed arbitrarily that identical conditions of food deficiency prevail in all its different areas. Certain localities may be lacking in foodstuffs rich in proteins, other areas may be sufficiently well-stocked with them, while requiring foodstuffs rich in fats, minerals or vitamins or a combination of some of them. It may be that the picture of food deficiency may vary from district to district. A thorough understanding of this picture, when drawn properly with the aid of irrefutable facts will help the framing of a proper food policy, which would pave the way for a better state of health and contentment among the millions of our countrymen. Protein deficiency can be met only by the supply of foodstuffs rich in proteins, while mineral deficiency requires treatment in a different way, just as vitamin efficiency will require to be tackled by the supply of foods rich in particular vitamins. All these require collection of basic information about them. Without any such basic information collected by studious, labourious and sometimes thankless work, mal-nutrition cannot be overcome seriously by any organisation interested in the welfare of the country. Intelligent and otherwise well-meaning men and women may be under the erroneous impression that vitamin deficiency can be solved by the supply of a few vitamins in tablet form and similarly, mineral deficiency by the purchase of some of the mineral elements sold in a Chemists shop. This is neither the practical nor the correct nor the cheapest way to deal with mal-nutrition. Mal-nutrition should be tackled by steps taken to deal with the root causes leading to it.

Fighting the Evil

No doubt mal-nutrition is connected to a great extent with poverty. Poverty and mal-nutrition are found together but it should not be assumed that it is always so. Mal-nutrition can be due to ignorance. Indifference also plays a great part in the problem of mal-nutrition. A person may be rich but if he does not know what to eat, when to eat and how to eat, he may suffer from mal-nutrition. Such cases of mal-nutrition are not rare but Governments as a whole are concerned mostly with mal-nutrition caused by poverty and ignorance amongst the poorer classes of the population. There are various ways and means by which much of the mal-nutrition existing among the poorer classes can be avoided and prevented by changes in their diet without involving appreciable additional cost, changes brought about by re-alignment of components of their diets and by increasing their knowledge of nutrition. All this can be done only if we are fully in possession of accurate information relating to the different kinds of mal-nutrition and the exact the dietary

habits of the people existing in particular areas. Steps can certainly be taken effectively even under scarcity conditions to lessen the incidence of mal-nutrition. Any attempts to improve rural conditions should be wholly supported by the local population, without which whole-hearted co-operation any amount of initiative on the part of the administrations cannot bear much fruit. With increased knowledge on nutrition dissemenated to the population, much of the prevailing mal-nutrition can be tackled effectively. What is wanted is the desire and determination to study the situation and face it as it exists and to do things in a way that should stand the test of posterity and incidentally, may lead to an improvement in the state of health of population even in the near future. The problem of mal-nutrition requires early attention, while the problem of poverty to which it is related, which has probably a political background, can only be dealt with slowly and steadily.

—B. G. KRISHNAN,
Nutrition Officer to the Government of Madras.

Labour Situation in the Province

Report for the fortnight ending 30th April 1947

The Hon'ble Minister for Labour, Madras, the Joint Secretary to Government, Development Department and the Commissioner of Labour, Madras, attended the Labour Ministers' Conference on 16th and 17th. The Commissioner of Labour attended also the Eighth Labour Meeting on 21st and 22nd.

The workers of the Radhakrishna Mills, Peelamedu, Coimbatore, who were on strike from 8th April 1947, resumed work on 16th April 1947.

The Commissioner of Labour, Madras, has advised the workers of the Kothandaram Spinning Mill, Madura, who were on strike from 21st March 1947 and the workers of the Rajah Mills, Madura, who were on strike from 3rd April 1947, to resume work pending the result of the Court of Inquiry.

The workers of the Standard Furniture Company, Limited, Kallai, Malabar, have called off the strike. The management have taken back the eight discharged clerks.

The dispute between the Mannarghat Beedi Workers (Malabar) and the management of the beedi establishments has been settled and the strike notice issued by the workers has been withdrawn.

The strike in the Asoka and other weaving factories in Cannanore has been called off.

The Nellore District Electrical Labour Union, Nellore, has postponed the date of the strike to 22nd May 1947 to enable the dispute to be settled by negotiation and conciliation.

The workers of the South Indian Silk Mills, Limited, Gudiyattam, North Arcot district, are on strike from 29th March 1947. The Commissioner of Labour, Madras, has instructed the Labour Officer, Vellore, to bring about a settlement of the dispute quickly.

At a meeting of the Mettur Mill Workers' Union' Mettur Dam, held on 14th April 1947, the workers of the Mettur Industries, Limited, have resolved to continue the strike and press for the other demands and wages for the strike period in addition to the grant of bonus of five months wages offered by the management. The Union has been instructed to advise the workers to resume work pending the result of the Court of Inquiry which has since been appointed as an Industrial Tribunal under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

The dispute in the Drum Plant Section of the Mettur Chemical and Industrial Corporation, Limited, Mettur Dam, has been settled as a result of negotiations between the President of the workers' union and the management. The workers themselves taking up the contract relating to the production of containers.

As the dispute in the Sri Krishna Jute Mills, Ellore, has been referred for adjudication, the workers have called off the strike and resumed work on 10th April 1947.

The workers of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Limited, Madras, who struck work on 11th March 1947, are still on strike. The Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Minister for Labour have advised the Labour Leaders to agree to appear before the Court of Inquiry and to instruct the workers to resume work.

The Government of Madras have referred the industrial dispute between the workers and the management of the Burmah-Shell Company. Limited, Madras, to an Industrial Tribunal consisting of Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya for adjudication under section 7 (1) and (2) read with section 10 (1) (*c*) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

The workers of the East Asiatic Company (Oil Mills), Rayapuram, Madras, have served a notice of strike on the management of the East Asiatic Company, on 10th April 1947 putting forward nine demands, and intimating that they will go on strike on any day after 21st April 1947 if their demands are not conceded. The Labour Officer, Madras, is looking into the matter.

The Management of Sri Sarada Mills, Limited, Poddanur, closed down their mills until further notice as the workers did not turn up for work from 25th March 1947. They reopened their mills at 10 p.m. on 7th April 1947 as a result of the settlement arrived at between them and the workers in the presence of the Labour Officer, Coimbatore.

The workers of the Radhakrishna Mills struck work from 8th April 1947 as the result of a clash between workers belonging to rival unions over the reinstatement by the management of a woman worker supported by one of the unions. The Commissioner of Labour visited Coimbatore on 11th April 1947 and tried to bring about a settlement. No settlement could be reached as one of the unions adopted an unreasonable attitude. He has submitted reports to Government in the matter.

On the intimation of the Labour Officer, Vizagapatam, the Hume Saw Mill workers, Rajahmundry, have withdrawn the notice of strike given by them.

The dispute between the workers and the management of the National Tobacco Company, Chilakalarpet, has been settled and the strike has been called off on 3rd April 1947.

The Nuzvid motor workers have called off their strike on 6th April 1947 on the intervention of the Revenue Divisional Officer, Nuzvid, and the District Magistrate of Kistna.

The workers of the Kothandaram Spinning Mill, Madura, who struck work on 21st March 1947, have been advised to resume work as the management have proposed to pay the Madura Mills rates of wages as in Mahalakshmi Mills.

The workers of the Rajah Mills, Madura, struck work on 3rd April 1947, in spite of the advice of the Commissioner of Labour through their union not to go on strike. The Commissioner has asked the Labour Officer, Madura, to advise the workers to resume work immediately and to await the result of the Court of Inquiry, and to ask the management to pay interim relief to the workers as directed by Government.

The Secretary of the Tobacco and Cigar Labourers' Union, Dindigul, has issued a notice of strike on 3rd April 1947 to the Proprietor, Angu Vilas Tobacco and Cigar Company, Dindigul, intimating that the workers will go on strike after 17th April 1947 if their demands for recognition of their union, increase of pay and dearness allowance, annual bonus, leave facilities, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Commissioner of Labour has advised the union not to precipitate a strike, but to await the result of the Court of Inquiry for beedi, cigar, etc., industries.

The workers of the Commonwealth Trust, Limited, Calicut, who struck work on 2nd April 1947 demanding three months' wages as bonus, etc., have been advised to resume work as the management have agreed to pay bonus.

The workers of the W. K. Saw Mills, U. B. Dutt, Saw Mills and the South India Saw Mills, Kallai, called off the strike and resumed work on 1st April 1947.

The Nellore District Electrical Labour Union, Nellore, has issued a notice of strike on 5th April 1947 to the management of the Nellore Power and Light Company, Limited, Madras, intimating that the workers will go on strike from midnight on 22nd April 1947, if their demands for reinstatement of a Lineman, recognition of their Union, leave facilities, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Commissioner of Labour met the Secretary of the Union on 10th April 1947 and advised him to come to a settlement with the management by conciliation with the assistance of the Labour Officer, Bezwada, who will be visiting Nellore on 17th April 1947 to bring about a settlement of the dispute.

The workers of the South Indian Silk Mills, Gudiyattam, struck work on 29th March 1947 demanding increase of wages, dearness allowance, etc. The Labour Officer is trying to bring about a settlement of the dispute.

In their Order Ms. No. 1426, Development, dated 31st March 1947, the Government of Madras have accepted the award of the Adjudicator in the dispute between the workers in the Pottery department of the Ranipet Factory of the East India Distilleries and Sugar Factory, Madras, and the management of the factory.

The strike notices issued by the tile and press workers, Karaikudi, has been withdrawn.

The workers of the Mettur Industries, Limited, Mettur Dam, who struck work on 15th February 1947, have not yet resumed work in spite of the advice of the Commissioner of Labour to resume work accepting the offer of the management to pay five months' wages as bonus as in Coimbatore and to await the result of the Court of Inquiry. The District Magistrate, Salem, reports that the situation is peaceful.

Food Situation in the Province

Report for the first fortnight of April

Season and crops.—During the fortnight rainfall occurred mostly in the Southern and West Coast districts of the Province. It was heaviest in the Madura district and fairly heavy in the districts of Ramnad, Tinnevelly and Malabar. The heavy rains were reported to be slightly harmful to the standing crops.

Water supply for agricultural purposes was adequate in all the districts.

Prices.—There was no perceptible change in the prices of rice and other cereals.

As regards pulses, the only noticeable features were an increase of 2·4 per cent in the price of redgram dhall and a fall of 1·1 per cent in the price of bengalgram.

The price of chillies showed a fall of 2·2 per cent that of salt a fall of 7·5 per cent and that of firewood an increase of 2·9 per cent.

The position regarding the prices of oils, oil seeds, oil cakes, etc., was as follows :—

No change.—Copra and coconut oil.

Rise.—Groundnut shelled (2·8 per cent), gingelly oil (6·8 per cent), groundnut oil (1·7 per cent), gingelly oil cake (2·8 per cent), groundnut oil cake (5·8 per cent) and cotton seed (1·5 per cent).

Fall.—Gingelly seed (0·7 per cent).

Procurement.—The following statements show the quantities of paddy, rice and millets locally procured and the quantities of cereals and pulses received from sources outside the Province.

(*a*) *Local procurement during the fortnight ending 31st March* 1947—

	TONS.	
Paddy	82,657	Together equivalent to 110,681 tons in terms of rice.
Rice	54,121	
Millets	4,035	

(*b*) *Receipts from other Provinces and States during the fortnight ending the* 15*th April* 1947—

	TONS.
Rice	3,539
Millets	Nil
Wheat	19 (from Hyderabad).
Wheat products.	Nil
Pulses—	
Blackgram ..	500
Redgram ..	Nil
Greengram ..	209
Bengalgram ..	410
Total (pulses) ..	1,119

(*c*) *Imports from overseas during the fortnight ending* 15*th April* 1947—

	TONS.
Rice	4,870 (ex- S.S. *Ismalia*).
Millets	Nil
Wheat	Nil
Wheat products.	Nil

Stock and supply—Rice—The stock of rice in the Province was 276,044 tons on 10th April 1947 as against 290,045 tons on 27th March 1947.

Despite strenuous efforts made by the Government it has not yet become possible to build up stocks adequate for the enhancement of the rice ration to 12 oz. in the districts of Malabar, the Nilgiris and Salem. In respect of Malabar, however, arrangements are being made for introducing the enhancement of the ration from 4th May 1947. In some of the other districts in which the ration has already been raised to 12 oz., its maintenance at that level has been constantly beset with difficulties owing to unsteady imports from the surplus areas. During the fortnight under report, the stock position in the districts of Salem, North Arcot and Chittoor became low, owing to the non-receipt in time of the allotted quotas which were mostly due from the Circars. In the case of Salem and North Arcot emergency supplies were arranged from the districts of Tanjore, Trichinopoly, South Arcot and Chingleput which had stocks to spare. In the case of Chittoor, instructions were issued to the Supply Officers of the supplying areas concerned to expedite the movement of the quotas to that district.

Millets.—The stock of millets increased from 16,328 tons on 27th March to 21,349 tons on 17th April, mainly due to arrival of the 5,000 tons of American milo on the "Deepavu Victory." Millets procurement continues to be much less efficient than last year. The off-take of millets in March was about 8,350 tons.

Maize.—Maize stocks decreased during the fortnight from 7,813 tons to 6,277 tons against an off-take of about 2,780 tons in March.

Barley.—Stock of barley has decreased from 1,644 tons to 1,236 tons. The off-take during March was about 270 tons, which is more than double the off-take in February.

Wheat.—Stocks of wheat have fallen from 5,898 tons to 4,953 tons. The off-take in March approximated to 2,170 tons. It is, therefore, anticipated that stocks will last until the end of June. Against the quota of 100 tons of samba wheat from Hyderabad, 74 tons have been received.

Wheat products.—Stocks have fallen from 3,178 tons to 2,745 tons. The off-take during March approximated to 1,028 tons. As in the case of maize and barley, no imports of wheat products are expected.

Pulses.—Large imports of bengalgram and a lesser quantity of greengram continued to arrive from Karachi. S.S. "Palamcottah" carrying 4,000 tons of bengalgram and 1,000 tons of greengram arrived in Madras on 9th April. The S.S. "Jayabrahma" discharged 1,080 tons of gram flour at Cochin on the 8th and is proceeding to Madras to discharge a further 1,130 tons of bengalgram and greengram. The S.S. "Ghazana" arrived at Madras on the 13th, with 1,600 tons of bengalgram and flour. The rationing of pulses was introduced into Madras City on 7th April 1947. The stock position of pulses is generally satisfactory.

Rationing.—During the fortnight under report instructions were given to the Rationing Officers at Hill stations in the Province to the effect that visitors from outside the Province may be given rice against their rations if the stocks of wheat and wheat products are not adequate for the purpose.

Subsidiary Foodstuffs—Sugar.—As a result of the low recovery of sugar from cane in all the sugar factories in the province the Government have addressed the Sugar Controller for India for an increase in the price of sugar produced in this Province by Rs. 2 per imperial maund.

Intimation has been received that there will be a cut of 8 per cent in the sugar quota to this Province for the current year. The district quotas will therefore have to be reduced proportionately.

Miscellaneous Commodities.—Firewood was reported to be inadequate in parts of Coimbatore, Guntur and Ramnad districts. There was a steady decline in the stock of firewood in Madras City. Scarcity of matches was reported from the districts of Nellore, Vizagapatam, the Nilgiris, Cuddapah, Malabar and Chingleput.

Work of the Fire Services

The Madras Fire Services Department was originally constituted under section 3 of the A.R.P. Ordinance No. IV of 1941 as an adjunct to the A.R.P. and Civil Defence Services. As a result of the measures taken for Civil Defence during the beginning of 1941, the organization of Madras Fire Services was extended to other towns which were classified for purposes of Civil Defence measures. The Government have decided to retain the Fire Services Organization as a peace-time measure and ultimately the Service will be functioning in the Madras City and 81 municipalities throughout the Province. The Director of Fire Services is the head of the department. For administrative and operational purposes, the Province is divided into three Regions, Central, Western and Northern. The Central Region comprises the districts of Madras, Chingleput, Tanjore, South Arcot, Trichinopoly, Salem and North Arcot. The Western Region includes the districts of Coimbatore, the Nilgiris, Malabar, Ramnad, Madura, South Kanara and Tinnevelly. The districts of Nellore, Bellary, Chittoor, Cuddapah, East Godavari, Kurnool, West Godavari, Guntur, Anantapur, Kistna and Vizagapatam are administered by the Northern Region. Each of the above Regions is under the command of a Chief Regional Fire Officer, who is assisted by a Divisional Officer and the requisite number of District Officers, Station Officers and Sub-officers.

At present, the Fire Services Organization is operating in 50 towns including the Madras City and it is anticipated that before the close of the current financial year, 14 more Fire Service Sections will be inaugurated. During the year 1946, the Fire Services attended 1,637 Fire Calls, of which 1,591 were actual fires and 41 were false alarms. The value of estimated property at risk involved in these fires is Rs. 415·5 lakhs. The value of property actually lost is estimated at Rs. 42·8 lakhs. The estimated value of property saved by this Department is Rs. 372·7 lakhs.

Ambulance Service

In addition to undertaking fire-fighting operations, the department is running an Ambulance Service. One or more ambulance is attached to each Section. The Ambulances are available to

the public at all times and will attend to accident cases free of charge. In other cases where patients require removal to or from hospitals, the ambulances are always on call on payment of a flat rate, *viz.*, Rs. 3 within the Madras City limits and Rs. 2 within municipal limits or panchayat areas in mufassal towns for any one engagement. Outsidet he municipal limits in the City or mufassal a charge of annas eight per mile or a fraction thereof subject to a minimum of Rs. 3 is charged. During 1946, 4,699 ambulance calls were attended by this department and a sum of Rs. 34,935 was realized and credited to Government.

The Fire Services is mainly a non-productive humanitarian public service dedicated to the saving of life and property from uncontrolled fire. The activities of the department are mainly connected with fire prevention, fire precaution and fire extinction. They do, however, undertake private pumping for essential purposes and in this connexion a sum of Rs. 14,000 was realized during 1946.

ROYAL INDIAN NAVY EXAMINATION

An examination for the selection of cadets for entry to the permanent cadre of the commissioned ranks of the Royal Indian Navy will be held in Simla on Monday, the 23rd June 1947, and subsequent days. The examination will be conducted by the Federal Public Service Commission.

At this examination the following vacancies will be offered :—

Branches.	Number of vacancies.
(1) Executive	3
(2) Engineering	4
(3) Supply and Secretariat ..	1

The number of vacancies allotted to different branches is subject to alteration and candidates should show in the application form the order of their preference for all the three Branches—Executive, Engineering, and Supply and Secretariat—if they wish to compete for more than one Branch.

Candidates who qualify at the written examination will be required to appear before a Services Selection Board, which will make recommendations to the Government of India for the final selection of cadets for appointment to the vacancies offered at the examination.

Candidates for admission to the Royal Indian Navy examination must have been born not earlier than the 2nd January 1928 and not later than the 1st January 1930. The age limits can in no case be relaxed.

Particulars relating to educational qualifications and subjects prescribed for the examination are stated in the rules prescribed for the examination, and published in the Defence Department Resolution No. 751, dated the 22nd March 1947.

A candidate who desires to appear at the examination is required to submit his application in the prescribed form with the necessary documents in accordance with the "Instructions to candidates regarding the filling up and submission of applications." Applications must reach the Federal Public Service Commission direct on or before the 5th May 1947. Copies of the Rules and the Application form, etc., may be obtained direct from the Secretary, Federal Public Service Commission, Simla.

The fact that an application form has been supplied on a particular date will not be accepted as an excuse for the late submission of an application. Candidates who delay their requests for forms until a late date will do so at their own risk.

Candidates who are already in Government service may compete at the examination, provided that they fulfil all the conditions mentioned in the rules. Applications from candidates in Government service whether employed in a permanent or temporary capacity, must be submitted through the Head of the Department or office concerned.

NOTE—(1). If any candidate who has applied for admission to the examination held in February 1947 for entry to the Royal Indian Navy, wishes to appear at the examination to be held in June 1947, he must submit his application by the prescribed date without waiting for the results of the former examination. If he is successful, his candidature for the June examination will be cancelled.

(2) The approximate cost of training for the Royal Indian Navy is £116.

(3) The Government of Madras have instituted a scholarship of the value of £260 to be awarded annually to the Madras candidate standing highest in the examination and selected as cadet for the Royal Indian Navy.

Detailed rules for the grant of the scholarship are published in the Madras Government G.O. Ms. No. 2218, dated the 21st September 1945.

Report on Gingelly Cultivation

The average area under gingelly in the Madras Province during the five years ending 1944–45 represents 14·7 per cent of the total area under gingelly in India.

The area sown with gingelly in 1946-47 is estimated at 652,300 acres. When compared with the area of 557,500 acres estimated for the corresponding period of last year, it reveals an increase of 17·0 per cent. The present estimate reveals an increase of 8·9 per cent when compared with the finally recorded area of 599,956 acres in 1946–47.

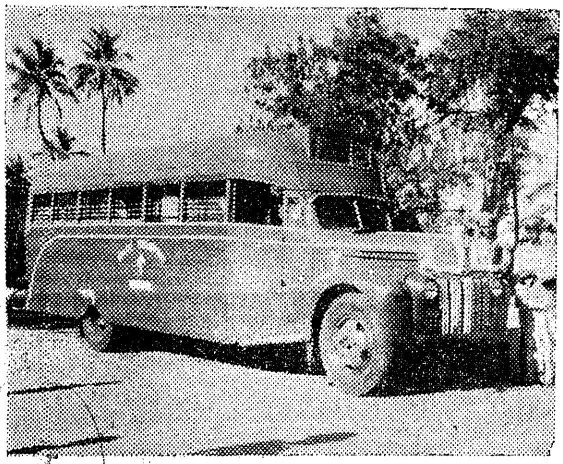
One hundred and forty-five thousand three hundred acres have been reported as sown since the previous forecast was issued in January 1947 as against 82,000 acres during the same period of last year. These late sowings were mainly on wet lands in Vizagapatam, East Godavari, West Godavari, South Arcot, Tanjore, Ramnad and Tinnevelly where gingelly was as a second crop after the harvest of paddy.

As compared with the final figures of the previous year, a decrease in area is estimated in West Godavari, Guntur, Anantapur, Cuddapah, Madura and Malabar and an increase in the area in the other districts of the Province. The increase is marked in South Arcot (+ 11,000 acres), Tinnevelly (+ 53,000 acres), and Bellary (+ 51,000 acres).

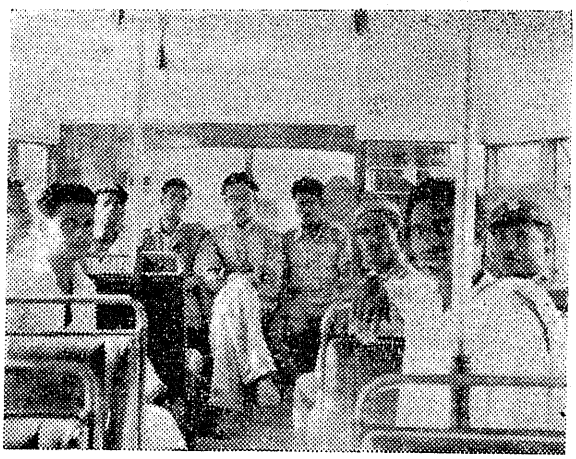
The yield per acre is estimated to be normal in West Godavari, Cuddapah, Nellore, Ramnad and Tinnevelly and below the normal in the other districts of the Province due mainly to the adverse seasonal conditions on account of the heavy rain in November and December 1946. The condition of the late sown crop is reported to be generally satisfactory. The seasonal factor for the Province as a whole works out to 88 per cent of the average as against 83 estimated in the season and the crop report of the previous year. On this basis, the total yield works out to 78,600 tons which is more than that estimated in the season and crop report of the previous year by 17·0 per cent.

The whole price of gingelly seed per imperial maund of 82-2/7 lb. (equivalent to tolas) as reported from important markets on the 12th April 1947 was Rs. 32-4-0 in Trichinopoly, Rs. 32-2-0 in Vizagapatam, Rs. 32 in Salem, Rs. 30-15-0 in Tinnevelly, Rs. 29-10-0 in Tuticorin, Rs. 29-4-0 in Rajahmundry, Rs. 28-13-0 in Cuddalore, Rs. 28-12-0 in Ellore, and Rs. 25-1-0 in Cocanada. When compared with the prices which prevailed on the 11th January 1947 these prices reveal a rise of approximately 25 per cent in Salem, 23 per cent in Trichinopoly and Vizagapatam, 19 per cent in Tuticorin, 14 per cent in Rajahmundry and Cuddalore, 12 per cent in Ellore and 7 per cent in Tinnevelly, the price at Cocanada remaining stationary.

STATE TRANSPORT BUS



Outside view.



Inside view.

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Report on Groundnut Cultivation

The area sown with summer or irrigated groundnut during the three months (January to March 1947) is estimated to 40,400 acres. When compared with the estimated area of 30,800 acres for the corresponding period of last year, there is an increase of 31·2 per cent due mainly to the attractive price for groundnut.

Figures by districts are given below :—

Districts.	Estimation of area sown with irrigated groundnut from January to March. 1947.	1946.	Increase (+) or decrease (−) of the area in col. 2 as compared with the area in col. 3.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.
Anantapur	100	Nil.	+ 100
Cuddapah	1,000	1,300	− 300
Nellore	400	100	+ 300
Chingleput	4,000	4,500	− 500
South Arcot	24,000	14,000	+ 10,000
Chittoor	2,700	3,000	− 300
North Arcot	1,000	1,400	− 400
Trichinopoly	1,800	2,200	− 400
Tanjore	2,200	1,200	+ 1,000
Madura	1,900	1,100	+ 800
Ramnad	1,300	2,000	− 700
Total ..	40,400	30,800	+ 9,600

The wholesale price of groundnut (shelled) per imperial maund of 82-2/7 lb. (equivalent to 3,200 tolas) as reported from important market centres on 12th April 1947 was Rs. 21-6-0 in Cuddapah, Rs. 21-1-0 in Vizianagram, Cuddalore and Tadpatri, Rs. 20-15-0 in Guntur, Nandyal, Adoni, Vellore and Coimbatore, Rs. 20-7-0 in Bellary, Rs. 20-2-0 in Salem and Rs. 20 in Erode. When compared with the prices published in the previous report, i.e., those which prevailed on 11th January 1947 these prices reveal an increase of 76 per cent in Tadpatri, 69 per cent in Cuddalore, 68 per cent in Vizianagram, Guntur and Coimbatore, 67 per cent in Vellore, 66 per cent in Bellary, 61 per cent in Nandyal and Salem, 60 per cent in Erode, 59 per cent in Adoni and 44 per cent in Cuddapah.

Report on Bengalgram Cultivation

The area sown with bengalgram in 1946-47 is estimated at 71,200 acres. The present estimate reveals an increase of 6·8 per cent when compared with the actual area of 66,675 acres according to the Season and Crop Report of the previous year.

The crop is not grown in the districts of Chingleput, South Arcot, Tanjore, Malabar, South Kanara and the Nilgiris. The area estimated is the same as that of last year in North Arcot, Trichinopoly, Ramnad and Tinnevelly. An increase in area is estimated in Vizagapatam, Kistna, Kurnool, Bellary, Anantapur, Cuddapah, Nellore, Chittoor and Coimbatore and a decrease in area is estimated in the other districts of the Province.

The crop has been harvested in most of the districts. The yield per acre is expected to be below the normal in all the districts of the Province due mainly to insect attack during the period of growth.

The seasonal factor for the Province as a whole works out to 81 per cent of the average as against 83 per cent according to the Season and Crop Report of the previous year. On this basis the yield works out to 12,800 tons as against an estimated of 12,330 tons for the previous year according to the Season and Crop Report representing an increase of 3·8 per cent.

South Indian Railway

Business Conditions during March 1947

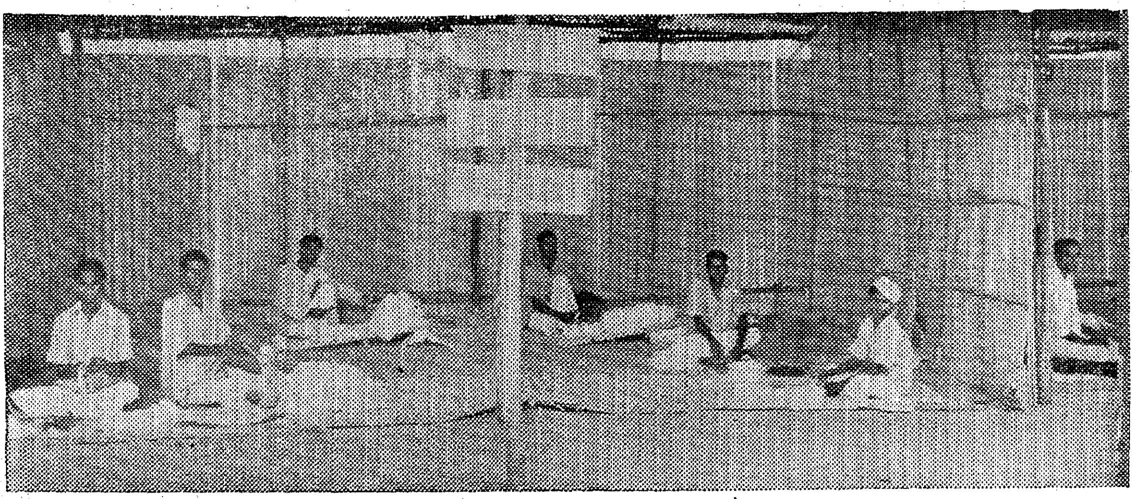
During February 1947, 10 additional trains were introduced on the Broad Gauge and 4 on the Metre Gauge, and in March, 2 trains were introduced on the Metre Gauge. Among the important trains re-introduced is the Cochin Express between Madras Central and Cochin Harbour Terminus. Thus nearly 84 per cent of pre-war train service has been restored on the Broad Gauge whilst 69 per cent has been restored on the Metre Gauge.

The following statement will give an idea of the train miles run in March 1947 in comparison with the corresponding month of the previous year :—

	March 1946.	March 1947.
	MILES.	MILES.
Public train miles—		
Coaching	678,380	747,552
Goods	269,767	281,335
Total ..	948,147	1,028,887

(*Continued on next page*)

The Government of Madras with the assistance of the All-India Spinners' Association arranged for a demonstration of the several processes of Khadi Production at the Thakkar Bapa Harijan Industrial Benefit Fund Exhibition in the Congress Grounds, Teynampet. The Government have granted Rs. 5,000 towards the expenses incurred in this connexion. The following pictures give an idea of the various stages of Khadi production :—



Ginning

Spinning

Details of traffic, both passenger and goods, carried during the month of March 1947, as compared with the previous month and the corresponding month of last year, are given below :—

	March 1947.	February 1947.	March 1946.
Coaching traffic.			
Number of passengers.	11,154,432	10,235,452	10,801,501
Eranings in rupees..	68,18,195	64,92,879	54,69,575
Goods traffic.			
Weight in tons ..	520,159	483,158	565,290
Earnings in rupees..	42,60,102	41,16,973	53,51,603

Masi Maham festival which fell on 6th March 1947 and Maha Sivarathiri on 20th March 1947 attracted a large number of pilgrims to several stations and particularly to Tiruchendur and Dhanushkodi respectively.

The number of passengers carried is much more than that of the previous month and also of March 1946. Even with the increased train service it was not possible to reduce the overcrowding in trains and the consequent inconvenience to passengers as the passenger traffic continued to be very high.

Andhra Fine Spinning

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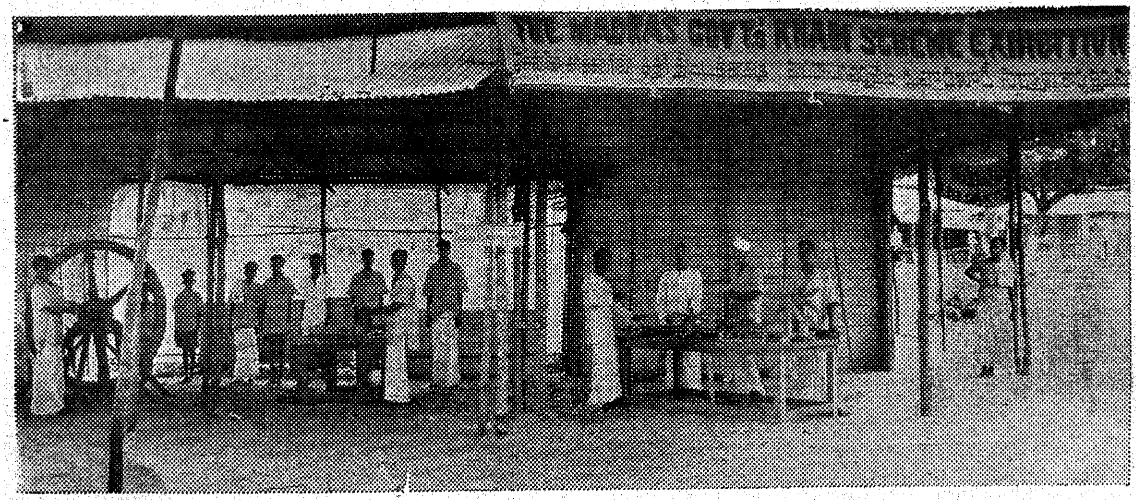
MAY 1947

Khadi Museum—Finished Products.

Readers are invited to send questions seeking clarification of the policy of the Government or allied matters. Answers will be published as soon as possible.



Manufacture of Charkas.

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